

THE
STAGE-COACH:

CONTAINING THE
Character of MR. MANLY
AND THE
History of his Fellow-Travellers.

V O L. II.

BERWICK:
PRINTED BY W PHORSON.

MDCCLXXXIX.

STAGE-COACHES

CONTAINING THE

Character of Mr. MARY

AND THE

History of his Fellow-Travelers.



PERWICK

PRINTED BY W. PROBERT

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V O L. II.

B O O K III.

Contains various Histories, and a country
Scene.

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THE

THE
STAGE-COACH.

BOOK III.

Contains various Histories, and a Country
Scene.



CHAP. I.

*Mr. Moreton gives an account of an happy
Marriage, and Mr. Manly receives a summons
into the Country.*

UPON the appearance of Mr. More-
ton, Mr. Manly enquired for his lady,
and was answered she was gone to visit
a relation in Cheshire, and that he should have
attended her, if he had not been detained in

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town

town by an affair of consequence. Miss Murrells, hearing him mention Cheshire, asked if he had any knowledge of Sir Charles Farewell, he reply'd, it was to his house his wife was gone, upon which she made great enquiries after lady Farewell; and was informed she enjoyed a large share of health and happiness; —that she had not been in town since she married, but was expected shortly. Mr. Manly at this said, “ I never knew, Sir, that Sir Charles was any relation of yours; pray how came the alliance?” “ By a happy turn of fortune, returned Mr. Moreton. You must know, Sir, my wife’s mother was cousin-german to one Dr. Godwin a Clergyman, whose distant situation rendered him a greater stranger than she wished, for she always expressed the highest opinion of his desert. Mrs. Moreton, when a child, remembers his visiting her father, but he being fixed in the eastern part of the kingdom, and her family in Shropshire, they had little opportunities of seeing each other, and the acquaintance dropt. It happened a few years ago, my wife was at a fan-shop, when a young woman came in to pay for a couple of fans, desiring a receipt, as they were for her lady. Being asked her name, Mrs. Moreton observed, she replied Godwin; upon which, she entered into conversation with her concerning her family, and finding she was the daughter of Dr. Godwin, told her she was her relation, and gave her an invitation to our house. Accordingly, some days

“ days after she came to see us; and having
 “ enquired into her situation, I desired my
 “ wife would insist upon her leaving the place
 “ she was in, and come and reside in our fa-
 “ mily, for I was well acquainted with the
 “ character of the people she was with, though
 “ an entire stranger to their persons, and
 “ thought it very hard for a person of her
 “ birth and qualifications to be dependent
 “ upon them.” Miss Murrells could not sup-
 press a blush which arose in her face at this,
 but the gentleman, not conjecturing she had
 any concern in his speech, continued, “ My
 “ cousin was very grateful for the offer, and
 “ we thought ourselves happy in our company,
 “ which we determined not to part with on
 “ terms short of an advantageous settlement
 “ for life. When she had passed a month
 “ with us, Sir Charles Farewell dined with me,
 “ and I remarked evident tokens of confusion
 “ in the countenances of them both whilst at
 “ table, and that his eyes were continually
 “ directed to her. This behaviour I must own
 “ gave rise to a suspicion in my mind, dero-
 “ gatory to Sir Charles’s honour, as I could
 “ perceive this was not their first interview,
 “ and knowing he had been a frequent visitor
 “ at the house of her late master, whilst she
 “ resided there, and had lately withdrawn his
 “ acquaintance from the family, I began to
 “ conjecture an imprudent attachment to each
 “ other, the post that she filled, and her in-
 “ digence, affording little probability of an
 “ honourable one. My intimacy with Sir

“ Charles being such, as to allow a freedom
 “ of speech, I determined to be very explicit
 “ with him, if the case was as I imagined.
 “ The ladies withdrawing after the third toast,
 “ we were left to ourselves, when I asked him
 “ how he came to drop his acquaintance with
 “ Mr. Murrells? this question seeming to add
 “ to his confusion, confirmed my suspicions.
 “ He blushed, and said with some hesitation,
 “ Dear Moreton! Why will you bring a fool-
 “ ish affair to my mind, that I would willingly
 “ forget?” “ Such a reply alarming me still
 “ more, I, with unusual gravity, said; you best
 “ know, Sir Charles, the nature of your at-
 “ tachment to that family, and whether it de-
 “ served the epithet you bestow upon it; as
 “ we have always been friends, you must ex-
 “ cuse a curiosity which may appear imperti-
 “ nent, and yet I assure you, it concerns me
 “ nearly to be informed of the motive of your
 “ frequent visits there, and the reasons for your
 “ withdrawing them. I presume, answered
 “ he, these interrogations proceed from some
 “ information you have received from one of
 “ the company that dined with us.—Perhaps
 “ she may imagine I have acted dishonourably
 “ in quitting the pursuit of an amour, that
 “ has caused me more vexation than I ever
 “ experienced in any accident of my life.
 “ How, Sir! cried I, can either of the ladies
 “ you saw to day have any colour for such an
 “ accusation? Dear Moreton! continued he,
 “ by your warmth, I perceive you seem to
 “ think she had, but upon my honour, my be-
 “ haviour

"haviour to Miss Murrells, does not deserve
 "such a construction." "Miss Murrells,
 "returned I, peevishly, what's Miss Murrells
 "to the purpose?—I do not apprehend she
 "has any accusation against you. But,—
 "Here he stopt me, with, "If she has not, I
 "am certain no one else has. I own I was
 "charmed with her person and accomplish-
 "ments, and sought her affections with great
 "assiduity, making her, with unfeigned sincer-
 "ity, an offer of marriage, but was not so
 "fortunate as to obtain a favourable return;
 "and as she could not be persuaded to abate
 "of her disdain, I ceased to trouble her with
 "my importunities, and have ever since been
 "endeavouring to banish her from my
 "thoughts; but the unexpected sight of a
 "person, that I had seen in her family, to
 "whom I imagine my pretensions are no
 "secret, awakened the remembrance of her,
 "and made me behave in a very awkward
 "manner." "This speech dissipated my
 "fears, and finding no grounds for the suspi-
 "cion I had entertained, I thought proper to
 "conceal it from Sir Charles, and lay hold of
 "his, concerning the report made by my cou-
 "sin, and after begging pardon for the liberty
 "I had taken, told him he had furnished me
 "with an answer if ever his behaviour to Miss
 "Murrells should be condemned, but assured
 "him, Miss Godwin had made no misrepresen-
 "tation of the case, though, as she knew
 "not the true reason for his absenting himself
 "from Mr. Murrells's, she might impute it

“ to a different cause. Upon this, he asked
 “ me many questions concerning my cousin,
 “ and I gave him a full account of her, and
 “ her family. Our conversation then took
 “ another turn, and we separated. He con-
 “ tinued to visit me with his usual freedom,
 “ and was particularly complaisant to Miss
 “ Godwin, when one evening, upon leaving
 “ me, he told me he had an affair of impor-
 “ tance to communicate to me, if I would be
 “ at his lodgings in the morning. I attended
 “ him, and little ceremony passed between us,
 “ before he said, “ Dear friend! the detail
 “ you gave me of the desert and misfortunes
 “ of your worthy cousin, Miss Godwin, has
 “ tended greatly to increase a liking I con-
 “ ceived at the first sight of her, the disad-
 “ vantages she appeared then under, as servant
 “ to the haughty beauty, who I attended, made
 “ me imagine her too much my inferior to
 “ think of her as a wife, and the prospect of
 “ obtaining her upon other terms, I ever ab-
 “ horred, debauching an innocent girl being
 “ amongst the actions which I dare not com-
 “ mit; but, since I find she is derived from a
 “ family, who want nothing but fortune to
 “ render an alliance with me proper, in the
 “ eye of the world, I am determined, if her
 “ heart is disengaged, to make her an offer of
 “ marriage; what I desire of you is, to tell me
 “ ingenuously, if you think she is free from
 “ any attachment of that nature?” Having
 “ expressed the just sense I had of the honour
 “ Sir Charles’s proposal conferred upon my
 “ cousin,

“ cousin, I assured him, she was entirely free
 “ from any engagement of that sort. He then
 “ proposed to acquaint her with his sentiments
 “ in the afternoon, and I returned home to
 “ give her some intimation of his design. To
 “ shorten my story, Sir Charles and she so well
 “ approved of each other, that in less than a
 “ month, my cousin became lady Farewell,
 “ and by her prudent conduct in that rank,
 “ become the darling of her husband, his re-
 “ lations, and acquaintance.” Mr. Manly
 having received this information, desired Mr.
 Moreton would introduce him to Sir Charles
 and his lady upon their return to town, but
 as he imagined, by the confusion Miss Mur-
 rells appeared in, a longer conversation upon
 this subject would be disagreeable to her, he
 changed the topic, ’till Mr. Moreton withdrew,
 and a servant delivered a letter to Mr. Manly,
 which, having perused, he communicated it
 to Mrs. Severn, who read as follows,

To—Manly, Esq; &c.

“ GOOD SIR,

“ These lines comes to let you know I am in
 “ health, though I have had a tedious fit of the
 “ gout, since I saw you, and I can but just
 “ make shift to stump to sessions. My
 “ daughter has been very good to me when I
 “ was sick, and I minded your advice, and let
 “ her go free about the house, and I did not
 “ say no more to her but that I would be obey-
 “ ed, which is but reason. Now ‘Squire Har-
 “ dy

“ dy has had a letter to tell him Mr. Timothy
 “ is expected every day, and I dont know
 “ what I shall do with that sarpant Rose, with-
 “ out you will be so kind to come to the Sul-
 “ lens next week, as you promised; afore he
 “ comes, and she may mind your talk more
 “ than mine. Good Sir, if you will be so kind
 “ to come, you will much oblige your humbell
 “ servant to command,

GILBERT MOODY.

The contents of this epistle visib'y chagrin'd
 Mr. Lee, who earnestly implor'd Mr. Manly's
 assistance, in rescuing Miss Moody from the
 constraint the justice seemed determined to put
 upon her inclinations. To which, Mr. Manly
 replied, “ I will certainly comply with the re-
 “ quest in Mr. Moody's letter, and make him
 “ a visit next week, when I will use my utmost
 “ endeavours, to persuade him to leave the
 “ young lady at liberty to reject Mr. Hardy's
 “ offer; and perhaps if this can be effected,
 “ he may, in time, be brought to approve her
 “ own choice.” The lover returned thanks
 for this kind design, and the company separat-
 ed.

CHAP.

C H A P. II.

A Smithfield bargain rejected

ON the day before Mr. Manly set out for the country, he called upon Miss Murrells to acquaint her with his intentions, and found her just about to step into an hackney-coach, when he asked her whether she was going? She answered, "To Smithfield, Sir, to fetch my good old nurse, who, notwithstanding the distance, is come to town to see me; for as soon as I was settled with Mrs. Hill, I wrote to desire to hear of her, and the good creature is come in person to answer me, as you may perceive by this letter, which I received an hour since." So saying, she delivered a paper to him, the contents of which were thus expressed.

"Deer child i get the man of the hous to rite this for to let you now that i cood not rest to leese you so far of so i cum to london in the wagin and i lay at the bear and raged staff in Smitfeld ware i pray you to come to me for my bons ake so that i can not cum to you not tel i have got some rest al from your lovin nurse Mary Adams." Mr. Manly desired to know what she intended to do with Mrs. Adams; she replied, as Mrs. Hill had been so kind to offer the old woman a bed, she was going to fetch her. Upon this she stepped into the coach, and Mr. Manly returned

turned to his, wherein he was but just seated, when he met Mr. Lee, and took him into his coach; a short conference passed between them, when they called an hack, into which they entered, and drove off for a place within ten miles of St. James's, but as their expedition was a secret one, we will not impertinently inquire into it, till we have attended Miss Murrells to the house from whence nurse's letter was dated. Before she alighted, she enquired for Mrs. Adams, and was informed the person she expected waited for her, upon which, she permitted the host to conduct her into a room, upon his saying he supposed she would not like to go into his kitchen, where her friend was. She desired Mrs. Adams might be sent to her immediately, and ordered the coach to wait, but had but just given these orders, when two men, shabbily accoutered, entered the room, one of which bolted the door, whilst the other rudely laid hold of her arm, saying, "Now, Bell, you shall make me amends for all the plague I have had about you, do you see?" (pointing to his wrist which was bound up) "what an injury I have got, by attending upon you? But now I have you once more in my power, you shall either comply with Lord Courtall's proposals, or remain a prisoner in the place where I will convey you; I was determined to trace you out, if you were above ground, and have been scheming to catch you, ever since I accidentally saw you in the milliner's shop; come, you must agree to his lordship's terms, for you

" have

"have no bully now to rescue you." These menaces, which she found came from Mackshane, and the disappointment of not meeting nurse, so overwhelmed her with grief and surprise, as to render her incapable of replying to them. She burst into tears, and struggled to get from him, when his companion approached her, who appeared by his dress not a degree above a porter, but upon his pulling off a large patch which he wore upon one eye, and throwing off his hat, she perceived him to be the noble lord, whose presence was so odious to her. At sight of him she gave a scream and dropt motionless into a chair. His lordship hurrying on his patch and hat, rang for water, and had but just time to give orders for the coach to drive up which had brought him, when Mr. Manly and Mr. Lee rushed into the room, with each a stout cudgel in their hands; they fastned the door, and demanded the lady, who was but just recovering from her swoon, and very near relapsing, with the extreme joy their unexpected arrival occasioned. Mr. Lee, no sooner laid eyes on Mackshane, than he recognized his face, and bestowed his cudgel very liberally upon him, whilst Mr. Manly chastized the other in like manner, till the pimp cried quarter, declaring at the same time the person they were abusing, was a man of quality. Upon this Mr. Manly asked who he was, "The son of an Earl," replied his lordship, "But I shall take some other opportunity of revenging the affront offered to my quality; I wear a sword." "You puppy!" Answered

fwered Manly (accompanying his words with
 a swinging blow across his lordship's shoulders)
 " Can such a rascal as you, whose cowardice is
 " a disgrace to your sex, pretend to impose
 " yourself upon me for a nobleman? or do you
 " think it possible for me to imagine a person
 " of quality, or any gentleman would degrade
 " himself to such an appearance as you make,
 " or be guilty of so mean an action as to
 " forge such a letter, and form so low a plot
 " for the destruction of an innocent young
 " lady? You may take your time when you
 " please, to return these favours, and I will
 " make use of the present to correct a villain,
 " who presumes to dishonour titles to which
 " he has no pretensions;" so saying, he gave
 his lordship as hearty a drubbing as Slack or
 Goddard ever bestowed. Mr. Lee was not the
 least behind-hand in quitting scores with his
 attendant, who received, as well as his patron,
 too deep an impression of their favours to be
 easily erased. In the scuffle, the landlord forced
 the door open, and was taxed by Mr. Manly
 with being an accomplice with these fellows,
 in their design of running away with the lady.
 To which he reply'd, " As I hope for mercy,
 " I am as innocent of what your honour talks
 " on as the child unborn. As your honour
 " may well suppose, when your worship hears
 " what I have to say." " Say on," answered
 Manly. " Your honour must understand,"
 continued he, " That one of these men came
 " to my house, and called for a double mugg,
 " enquiring for the Northamptonshire wag-
 " gon,

" gon, as when it came in, and when it set
 " out, and the like of that. Then he made
 " enquisition after the York one, and when
 " I had satisfied his curiosity, and he had called
 " for another double mugg, we entered into
 " scource concerning the good of the state."
 Mr. Manly out of all patience at this harangue
 begged the fellow to come to the point, and
 leave his politicks. " Then your honour
 " must understand," said the host; " he told
 " me as how a friend of his was a going to
 " be married to a young gentlewoman, and
 " her friends would not agree to it, though she
 " loved him as her own life; whereupon, an
 " please your worship, he said she had agreed
 " to tell her friends that she must come to my
 " house to meet one Mrs. Adams, and so they
 " purposed to go to the Fleet and get mar-
 " ried. This was the truth of the matter for
 " certain, or I would not have meddled or
 " made with it, for it was no bread and butter
 " of mine you know, though the gentleman
 " behaved himself like a gentleman, that I
 " must say, and paid nobly for what he had;
 " yet if so be I had known he had designed to
 " deal unhandsomely by the gentlewoman, in
 " any shape in life, he should not have brought
 " her here. I pay scot and lot, and my house
 " is in as good name as any in London. I
 " am certain my guests have always a hearty
 " welcome and good accommodation, it an't
 " my way to use many words, but I must say,
 " you will not find better entertainment at
 " any house in the field." Whilst the land-
 Vol. II. C lord,

lord uttered this speech, lord Courtall and Mackshane sneaked off, not a little mortified at the ill success of their enterprize. And Mr. Manly, satisfied with the punishment he had inflicted upon his lordship, would not add to his disgrace by endeavouring to interrupt his retreat, or informing the inn-keeper of his quality, who was very desirous of learning the true cause of Mr. Manly's resentment; upon which that gentleman told him there was not a word of truth in what those men had told him, who had formed several stratagems before to catch that lady, but he acquitted him, as did Miss Murrells, of being privy to their wicked intentions. During Mr. Manly conversation with the landlord, Mr. Lee told Miss Murrells, that Mr. Manly had but just put her into the coach, when it occurred to him that nurse's letter might be a forgery, and he determined to follow her, in order to assist her, if any scheme should be laid against her, " Meeting me, (continued he) he quitted his " own coach for a hackney one, to escape ob- " servation, and insisted upon my accompany- " ing him. In our way hither, he informed " me of his apprehensions. Upon our alight- " ing, the inn-keeper was very unwilling to " own you were here, 'till I told him, Mr. " Manly was a member of parliament, and a " justice of the peace, and would punish him " severely for secreting you; that if he did not " immediately inform us where you were, he " would produce a search-warrant. Upon " this, the fellow owned you were in this room " with

" with your sweetheart and another person, we
 " had not received this information above a
 " minute, when we heard you scream, what
 " followed you know." Miss Murrells was
 beginning to return thanks to her deliverers,
 when Mr. Manly begged she would suspend
 them until she was out of that house; and pre-
 senting the landlord with a guinea, and giving
 him a caution of being too credulous for the
 future, they departed. As soon as they were
 seated in the coach, he told Miss Murrells, as
 Lord Courtall had discovered her place of resi-
 dence, he feared her continuance there would
 render her liable to fresh troubles, and though
 he was sorry she should be deprived of such
 agreeable companions as Mrs. Hill and her
 daughter, it was his opinion she should seek out
 a more private one. This proposition brought
 her to her tears, however she was convinced by
 his reasons the situation she was in was too
 publick for her, and said she had no objection
 to waiting upon any lady of character, provid-
 ed she could meet with such treatment as Miss
 Aldrich afforded her, but she dreaded a lady
 snarler. Mr. Manly replied, " Since such is
 " your desire, Madam, I will recommend you
 " to one of the most amiable women of my
 " acquaintance, the lady of Colonel Jeffon,
 " with whom I am to pass this evening, and
 " will represent your case, 'tis probable if she
 " should not want you, some of her acquaint-
 " tance may." This proposition was approved
 of by Miss Murrells, who upon her arrival at
 Mrs. Hill's made a report of all that had pass-

ed. The thoughts of her removal was no less disagreeable to this kind mistress, than they were to Miss Murrells, but the reasons against her continuance in a place known to her persecutors, were too strong to admit of any objection, and a separation was sorrowfully agreed upon.—In the morning Mrs. Jeffon came to enquire for her, and told her, from the recommendation she had received of her from Mr. Manly, if she chose to attend upon her, she was ready to take her into her house immediately, as her own maid being engaged to marry, only staid till she could be accommodated with a person in her place. And after some conversation upon the subject it was agreed she should wait upon Mrs. Jeffon in a few days.

C H A P. III.

*Presents the Reader with a prospect of the
Sullens.*

HAVING disposed of Miss Murrells, for a time, we will attend Mr. Manly to the house of Justice Moody, which, with the help of a set of horses, he reached by five in the afternoon; the village in which it was situated was so inclosed by woods, that he had not the least view of it, 'till he drove up to an high brick wall, which seemed to have been reared with

with design to obstruct the contracted prospect of the vale in which it was built; in the centre of this wall was a close folding gate, over the top of which peeped several venerable Yews, that served to secrete the ancient mansion of the Moodys; on the one side was a dove-house, on the other a rookery. Mr. Manly's attendants, with no small clamour, gave notice of their master's arrival; and the justice issued out to meet him, and conducted him thro' the court to a door, fortified by a sufficient quantity of iron plates and rusty nails, against the assaults of any modern invader, and never opened but to receive particular friends, amongst which number the proprietor ranked his present visitant. Upon their entrance into a bleak damp hall, paved with red bricks, and enlightened by a window, which appeared by it's form to have belonged to some consecrated place, Mr. Manly perceived two cross-legged taylors seated on a long brown table, turning the justice's sessions coat, and roaring out, "I wish I may die if I do;" then casting his eyes over the chimney, he observed a piece of sign-post painting, which he desired the justice to explain the design of, for though he was a connoisseur in painting, and well read in sacred history, he was not able to discern in it a representation of Jephtha's vow, 'till Moody pointing to the picture, said, "There 'Squire, there's
 " a patern of a dutiful child; no body never
 " heard that she made a fuss about being obedient, but she did as she was bid; there's no
 " such daughters now a-days." Mr. Manly
 C 3 answered,

answered, he hoped no father would desire to put his child's duty to such a test. The sight of Miss Moody, who now came into the hall to receive him, prevented him from pursuing this topic, and he attended her into a little parlour hung with Irish-stitch, and so dark from the ivy that obscured the only window in it, that he could scarcely discern the furniture, which had remained in the same situation and form, under various revolutions of state. After tea, the justice invited him into the stable, to see bright Sorrel, on whose qualifications he haranged for some time, and declared an affection for him, next to his daughter. Mr. Manly would willingly have postponed this visit 'till the morning, but he could not resist the importunities of his host, and therefore went with him, and patiently attended to a detail of many surprizing exploits, the old gentleman had been enabled to perform, by the assistance of this creature; such as leaping five barred gates, and unfathomable ditches, in pursuit of a fox through several counties. From the stable he followed his leader into a large over-grown garden; where the figures of several eminent personages of antiquity flourished in perpetual verdure; but for want of skill or neglect in the gardener, were sprouted out of their original form; insomuch that Lucretia's arm was branched out, and seemed in a friendly manner to be interwoven with Tarquin's. In the midst of a turf plat, surrounded by these ever-greens, stood an old statue of Hercules, though his club seemed greatly diminished,

minished, and he was painted green, to the no
 small astonishment of the stranger. The jus-
 tice perceiving he was more intent in surveying
 this monstrous ornament, than the others, said
 to him, "Aye, Squire, that thing has been
 " fixt in this spot I warrant you these hundred
 " years; it was sadly out of kilter when I came
 " to the estate, but I got my neighbour the
 " constable, who is a carpenter, to make him
 " that right arm, and put the staff into it, for
 " I could not bear to see such a clumsy log
 " as he had in it before; then I had the gla-
 " zier to collour it, to make it uniform, and
 " like the box." Mr. Manly finding a speech
 was expected from him upon the occasion,
 suppressed a smile, and reply'd, "I observe,
 " Sir, a surprising uniformity in your house
 " and garden." Having taken a survey of
 these curiosities, they entered a little yard pav-
 ed with pebbles, placed in the form of letters,
 and containing many sentences extracted from
 Holy Writ, which the justice said were pitched
 by a puritannical uncle of his father's, in Crom-
 well's time; the words appeared from bad
 spelling, and mutilation, to have suffered no
 less than the original text had, by the exposi-
 tions of the party that placed them there. Mr.
 Moody observing his visitant gravely perusing
 the works of his ancestor, told him, "He
 " hoped he did not think he had any of his
 " uncle's blood in his veins, for if he did he
 " was out," adding, "I never could abide
 " your Presbyterians, because I understood
 " from Sir Richard Baker, they were always
 " against

“ against the landed interest. I would have
 “ dug up these fancies a long time ago, but it
 “ was my father’s desire they should remain
 “ for ever; however I once kept a fox here,
 “ and he has picked out some of the words,
 “ and turned the texts topsy-turvy, that I
 “ count, he has made a kind of nonsense of
 “ them.—Now, Squire, if you please, I’ll
 “ shew you my cellars, for you may ride a
 “ white horse black, before you find better
 “ flowage for drink.” Mr. Manly replied,
 he was obliged to him, but must beg leave to
 defer that trip to another opportunity, declar-
 ing he was weary. He was then, by ascending
 an high threshold, let into an entry, that had a
 communication with the kitchen; he stopt
 short to remark a horse-shoe nailed, the mean-
 ing of which he asked; the old gentleman
 shook his head, and answered, “ It i’n’t fixt
 “ there for nothing, I promise you.” From
 the time of Mr. Manly’s arrival, the justice
 had been so engaged in shewing him what he
 esteemed curious at the Sullens, that he had
 not been at leisure to mention the occasion of
 his invitation; but, upon their return to the
 parlour, he gave his daughter to understand
 she must quit the room. A large bowl of
 punch, a bottle of port, and a tankard of beer,
 being placed upon the table, he entered into
 conversation with his guest concerning Miss
 Moody. “ Mr. Manly, said he, shaking him
 “ by the hand, you are kindly welcome to the
 “ Sullens; I look upon you, by your talk, to
 “ be one that knows the ways of the world,
 and

and none of your hare-um, scare-um gentry, therefore I should be glad of your counsel.

“ You have seen my dwelling, which with
 “ nigh four hundred a year that lies all in a
 “ hedge, I purpose to leave to my daughter
 “ at my decease, that is, if she will be dutiful,
 “ and marry he I have fixt upon for her;
 “ there’s a matter of 200l. a year in land, that
 “ his uncle left him, that borders upon my
 “ estate, and ’tis a pity they should not be join-
 “ ed; that indeed, is the main reason that I
 “ am so hot upon Mr. Timothy; for you know
 “ it would be convenient. And then, for
 “ matter of the parties liking one another,
 “ that’s neither here nor there, if they should
 “ happen to differ after they are married, their
 “ estates will agree, and a fat sorrow is better
 “ than a lean one. For was the girl to follow
 “ her own head, and marry the Pothecary,
 “ they may fall out sometimes, and she would
 “ not have no potion to comfort her. Now
 “ I don’t care to say a great deal to her afore
 “ her sweet-heart comes, because she may
 “ blubter her eyes out, and fright the lad;
 “ but I should be much beholden to you, if
 “ you would give her a little good counsel,
 “ and tell her the sin of being obstinate, and
 “ having her own will, you can put it into
 “ better words than I.” Mr. Manly said,
 “ He was obliged to him for the good opinion
 “ he had of him, and would gladly do any
 “ thing in his power to promote concord;
 “ but, as the young lady had fixt her affections
 “ on a person of a good character, and a gen-
 “ tleman

“ tleman that wanted only a few of Mr. Har-
 “ dy’s acres, to render himself agreeable to any
 “ parent, the task he enjoined him to perform
 “ was very disagreeable, and quite against his
 “ own opinion; however, he would undertake
 “ to represent to the young lady, his desire,
 “ and the duty incumbent on a child in such
 “ a case, which he thought extended no fur-
 “ ther, than rejecting an alliance with a person
 “ they could not approve, but could not reach
 “ to the acceptance of any one, for whom she
 “ had an invincible dislike, merely to gratify
 “ the will of those who had only mercenary
 “ views in their proposals. Therefore he
 “ thought if he could engage her promise never
 “ to marry against his consent, he ought to be
 “ content with the sacrifice of her inclinations,
 “ and not endeavour to force her to accept
 “ any other. He expatiated largely on the
 “ cruelty of condemning a young woman for
 “ life to the company and conversation of a
 “ man she could not esteem, and gave many
 “ instances of the ill consequences attending
 “ such a procedure.” The old gentleman did
 not much relish this discourse, and after a long
 pause, he said, “ I don’t rightly understand all
 “ your talk, but if Rose should be such a fool
 “ as to refuse Mr. Timothy, I shall never look
 “ upon her, unless she will consent to be
 “ wholly directed by me in the choice of ano-
 “ ther, for I am set against the Apothecary.”
 Mr. Manly then asked, if Miss Moody had
 any acquaintance with Mr. Hardy, the justice
 reply’d, “ Acquaintance, no not she, but she
 knows

“ knows his friends ; he has not lived in these
 “ parts since he was a lad, for his uncle, the
 “ captain, took him away when he was about
 “ ten years of age, and brought him up ; and
 “ as he used the sea, he sent him aboard ships
 “ when he was very young. And when he
 “ came home after a voyage, he kept along
 “ with him at Deptford, and seldom when
 “ come to his father’s, that I should not know
 “ him myself if I were to see him ; but that’s
 “ nothing, I know his land.” “ Perhaps then
 “ said Mr. Manly, as the gentleman is a
 “ stranger, the young lady may not be averse
 “ to him, upon acquaintance ; we cannot tell
 “ how far his pleading may prevail, let us
 “ wait the event of an interview between
 “ them ; when is he expected ?” “ To-mor-
 “ row, answered Moody ; his father has invit-
 “ ed you and I to dinner with him ; the stage-
 “ coach is to set him down about four miles
 “ off, and the Squire is to send horses to meet
 “ him.” The presence of Miss Moody,
 and the appearance of supper, put an end to
 this conversation for that night.—Mr. Manly
 begg’d leave to retire early, and the justice
 waited on him into a spacious chamber, the
 oaken floor of which, had been so carefully
 rubbed, that the old gentleman, at his en-
 trance, made but one step from the door to the
 upper end, gliding along ’till he fell prostrate
 before the portrait of the emperor Trajan,
 which was placed next to that of St. Paul.
 Being assisted by his guest, and his servant, he
 regained his legs, and, having bestowed a curse
 upon

upon the maid, withdrew, and left Mr. Manly to take a view of the twelve Cæsars, and as many apostles, which were promiscuously ranged round the room, and seemed not only to agree very amicably, but by the painter's art to be all of a family. As a further survey of this apartment might keep him too long from his repose, and contribute more than we would desire to the reader's, we will close this chapter.

C H A P. IV.

Mr. Manly and the Justice make a visit to a neighbouring squire.

IN the morning when Mr. Manly came down to breakfast, he found Miss Moody seated at a tea-table to receive him, and her father at another, with a gammon of bacon before him, and a tankard of ale; whilst they were at breakfast, the justice was called out of the room upon business, and Mr. Manly took that occasion to tell the young lady, in a jocular manner, she seemed rather too much dejected for a lady who was in expectation of seeing her lover. She blushed, and a silent tear gliding down her cheek, awakened the compassion of the gentleman, who heartily pitied the situation of her mind at that juncture. He told her, Mr. Moody had acquainted him with his intentions
of

of bestowing her on Mr. Hardy, and asked if she had any reasonable objection to a compliance with his desire? she replied, "I am sincerely concerned, it is not in my power, Sir, to oblige my papa, in this, as I would willingly do in every respect, without entailing misery upon myself; but so it is, though I have nothing more to alledge against Mr. Hardy, than any other gentleman, who is equally unknown to me, I cannot support the thought of entering into so solemn an engagement with one, whilst my heart is prepossessed in favour of another." She then confessed the preference Mr. Lee had in her esteem, and pleaded the reciprocal affection that had subsisted between them for near two years, as an excuse against consenting to the match proposed. In the account she gave of her first acquaintance with that gentleman, she said her aunt Severn, at whose house she first saw him, was so far from discouraging the affair, that she, from her knowledge of his character and family, had endeavoured to persuade her father to hear his suit. Mr. Manly said that was the best plea she could have for encouraging his addresses, yet desired her to reflect on the consequences of indulging a passion, which was indeed no otherwise faulty, but in the want of a parent's sanction; and asked her, how she proposed to defray the expences attending a married state, without a fortune adequate to them. "Oh, Sir, answered she, "You cannot imagine how many anxious hours my papa's aversion to Mr. Lee has

“ given me ; I have endeavoured to erase every
 “ favourable idea of him from my mind, sen-
 “ sible as I am of his merit, and the sincerity
 “ of his affection to me ; and after all, I can-
 “ not but esteem him beyond all mankind ;
 “ yet, I am firmly resolved, never to be his wife
 “ without my papa’s content ; and only desire
 “ to be at liberty to remain as I am, and not
 “ be forced into a state, in which I am afraid
 “ I shall never be able to do my duty. I as-
 “ sure you, Sir, I was not so imprudent as to
 “ think of involving him and myself in such
 “ difficulties, as must attend a match without
 “ a competency, but I was not without hopes,
 “ if my papa could be brought to hear what
 “ Mr. Lee could say for himself, and was ac-
 “ quainted with him, he would one time or
 “ other be prevailed upon, to part with an
 “ equivalent to what his aunt left him ; and
 “ that with oeconomy would have been suf-
 “ ficient.” To this Mr. Manly reply’d,
 “ There appears something so ingenuous in
 “ your behaviour, Madam, that if you can
 “ strictly adhere to the resolution you have
 “ taken, and not marry till you have obtained
 “ Mr. Moody’s consent, I will endeavour to
 “ persuade him from urging you to a disagree-
 “ able union ; but, that there may appear no
 “ obstinacy in refusing to see the person he
 “ recommends, I must insist on your receiving
 “ a visit from Mr. Hardy.” She was extre-
 “ mely thankful for his kind interposition in her
 “ favour, and renewed the promise she had made
 “ of waiting for her father’s approbation. He
 then

then added to her satisfaction, by informing her of his acquaintance with her favourite lover, though he did not let her know Mr. Lee had any knowledge of his designs in his favour or that their intimacy was occasioned by any other means, but the protection he had afforded Miss Murrells, whose adventures, since she travelled with her, he gave her an account of. This conversation afforded Miss Moody a greater degree of ease, than she had experienced since the discovery of her attachment to Mr. Lee; she was about to express the pleasure she received from it, when the return of her father prevented her, who came to tell Mr. Manly the chariot was ready to carry them to the squire's. Mr. Hardy was equipped to receive them, in an old drab coat, with long skirts and gold buttons, in which he had made a figure at the assizes for the two last sessions of parliament, a black velvet waistcoat of the same date; and a long wig of a much more ancient one. After the first salutations, he told Mr. Manly, "As he came from London, and was
 " a parliament-man, he hoped he could tell
 " him a little what the folks above were do-
 " ing;" "For, continued he," "By some
 " conversation I had at the bowling-green
 " with Sir Revel Rattle's bailiff, I find there's
 " a dogged many taxes talked on; and I don't
 " rightly understand how matters go in the
 " North: but I doubt, not to their liking;
 " for he wished me to join in a new associa-
 " tion, but I thanked him for that, no, I won't
 " be caught so; no, I am one of your wary
 D 2 ones,

“ ones, I wont be cheated, and trap, I can tell
 “ him that; if there should be another re-
 “ bellion, 'tis time enough to set my hand
 “ when it breaks out, and when I know which
 “ way matters will go.” “ I dont know, said
 “ Manly, we have any occasion to fear one,
 “ or of any affociation, but that which some
 “ gentleman have entered into, under pre-
 “ tence of carrying on prosecutions against
 “ those who infringe the game act.” “ Oh,
 “ say you so, answered the squire, that's quite
 “ and clean another case; if he had let me into
 “ the light o'n'r, I should not have been so
 “ backward; no, I would willingly part with
 “ some pounds to bring such malefactors to
 “ law. 'Twas but last week, I went to the
 “ hall-farm, to speak to the church-warden
 “ that holds it, about putting out Grace Polly's
 “ bastard; and when I came there he seemed
 “ loth to let me go into the kitchen, but truly
 “ would have carried me into his parlour, but
 “ I thanked him for that, no, I smelt a rat,
 “ and I went into the house, and up to the
 “ fire, where I found a partridge roasting;
 “ it made my blood rise, for I had not had
 “ above 20 brace this season, and now I per-
 “ ceive the reason of the scarcity. He told
 “ me his dog killed it by chance, and he was
 “ dressing it for his son's dinner, who was in a
 “ consumption, and could not eat every thing,
 “ but this was a saucy pretence, the lad might
 “ have had a dumpling, and more fit for him.
 “ I would have caned the poaching rascal, if
 “ he had not been as stout a boxer as any in
 the

" the county ; however I gave him his own,
 " and told him, if ever he had such a thing
 " in his house again, I would prosecute him
 " according to law." Mr. Manly said, " There
 " I think, Sir, you were a little too severe ; I
 " am far from vindicating poaching, but a
 " bird killed in the manner you mention, by
 " an honest farmer at whose expence it has
 " been fed, ought not in equity, whatever it is
 " in the rigour of the law, to be deemed such
 " a trespass. I assure you I have too great a
 " reverence for the laws of the land, to coun-
 " tenance the breach of the most trivial ; yet
 " I cannot but own in such a case, I should
 " not have thought it any deviation from jus-
 " tice to have suffered it to pass unheeded.
 " Indeed all prosecutions of that nature, ap-
 " pear to me to proceed rather from a selfish
 " regard to our own pleasure, than from any
 " particular respect to justice ; why else, should
 " not associations be entered into, to prosecute
 " the vices and immorality of the age, which
 " tend not only to the subversion of human,
 " but divine laws.—I remember a few years
 " since, an affair of this sort happening in the
 " neighbourhood, where part of my estate lies ;
 " the head man in the village, who was a no-
 " torious wretch, and every day guilty of
 " crimes that deserved the gallows, abused a
 " worthy farmer, for picking up a bird, in the
 " manner your church-warden did. The man
 " very patiently attended to all the ill lan-
 " guage the gentleman (for that title he claim-
 " ed from his estate) thought proper to bestow

“ upon him, and carefully noted the oaths he
 “ had uttered ; the farmer was carried before
 “ a neighbouring magistrate, where he con-
 “ fessed the fact, and paid the penalty ; and
 “ then immediately informed against his anta-
 “ gonist for the breach he had made with his
 “ tongue, and the gentleman was obliged to
 “ pay him a much larger fine, upon that ac-
 “ count, than defrayed his expences, and at
 “ the same time afforded greater relief to the
 “ poor of the parish, than they would ever
 “ voluntarily have experienced from him.”
 This story effectually silenced the shallow squire
 upon that head, who looked upon the relater
 rather with awe, than admiration. After din-
 ner he took the justice aside and told him, he
 wished the Londoner was not a Presbyterian,
 or a Roman, for he did not talk like a Church
 of England man. Moody replied, “ I am
 “ certain by the discourse I had within the
 “ stone yard, he dont chime in with Oliver
 “ Cromwell, but I can’t say that he an’t a
 “ Papish, for I understand he lived some years,
 “ at the place where the Pope keeps ; but
 “ nevertheless I believe he is an honest man
 “ at the bottom, and has great riches.” At
 the conclusion of their conference they agreed
 to put some questions to him concerning re-
 ligion, in order to discover his sentiments. In
 pursuance of this scheme, Mr. Moody asked
 him many questions relating to what he had
 observed in his travels beyond sea, (as he ex-
 pressed himself) and for fear of offending him,
 spoke with such veneration of the Pope, and the

the opinions of the Romish Church, as greatly alarmed Mr. Manly, who began to fear he had been tampered with by the jesuitical emissaries, with which it is said this nation abounds, and had imbibed too favourable notions of that community. He therefore took this opportunity to expatiate on the many absurdities and superstitions of it. And gave it as his opinion that the Protestant religion, as established by law in this kingdom, was the purest, most rational, and the freest from error, of any in the world. The gentlemen were upon this topic, when the door opened, and a person entered whose name I will not reveal in this chapter; but confess, as the reader is not unacquainted with it, I am not willing to deprive him of so fashionable an amusement as betting, which he has now a fair opportunity of doing, with any of his audience, concerning the identity of this gentleman.

C H A P. V.

Gives a description of the person just arrived at Mr. Hardy's.

THE person who entered the squire's parlour, and whom we forbore to describe, for a reason given in the conclusion of the preceding chapter, was a short thick-set young man;

man ; with a broad flat face, and a complexion much injured by the sun, habited in a blue frock, the skirts of which were perfectly modish, and reached about half way of his ankeen breeches ; a black cut wig, a red silk handkerchief tyed round his neck, with the ends sticking out on each side his cheeks, as if to vie with them in colour ;—a large patch of brown paper over his left eye,—a hanger fastened with a buff belt, that banged against his buskins. This figure moved up to the squire, and taking him, by the hand, cryed, “ What cheer, father. The old gentleman, returned this salutation with a blessing, and a cordial embrace, then presented him to his guests, saying, “ This gentleman is my son Tim.” Having received the congratulations of the company, on his safe return, he drew a chair, and accosted the squire in the following manner. “ So, father, I see you are stationed just as I left you, but where’s brother ; the squire answered, he is well, and would have been here to have met you, but his wife is ill to-day, and he could not leave her.” Well, returned the sailor, “ All’s one, another time will serve ; and how does all our friends ?” “ All in health answered the father,” “ But my poor brother Ralph, and he is laid low, as I sent you word ;” “ Yes, yes ; so you did, mefs ! I am sorry for him, he is gone a long voyage but I hope he had a good passage. Where’s my old schoolmate, Nick Chance ?” “ Ah ! poor lad, said the squire, he was unlucky ; he lost all his money with keeping company with

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" with bad women, and playing at cards, and
 " the dies ; and then he took to bad courses,
 " and drowned himself at the mill." " Mefs !
 " reply'd the son, since he had such a fancy
 " for the water, he had better have gone along
 " with me : I could have got him a birth on
 " board the Reformation." The squire now
 began to enquire the reason of his wearing the
 brown paper on his face ; he answer'd, " I had
 " like to have turned keel upwards, for steer-
 " ing to the leeward of Squire Horner's, I fell
 " over the bowsprit of my horse, so I was fain
 " to tarry a good spell at the anchor, (for I
 " would not stop at the hare and hounds)
 " where my landlady got me this dab to swage
 " the bump a little, but now if you see fitting
 " I should be glad of a plaister." The squire
 was going to touch the bell, when the tar set
 up a whistle that brought a servant, and put
 the dogs into a full cry, in the midst of this
 din, which was increased by the vociferations
 of the justice and squire, his wound was dressed
 by the housekeeper, whom he chucked under
 the chin, and said she looked Dutch built.
 Mr. Manly had not uttered a syllable, from
 the time Tim. and his father entered into con-
 versation ; but now finding they were silent,
 he apply'd to the former for information con-
 cerning the proceedings of the French and us
 in the East Indies ? to which he reply'd, " They
 " are always a squabbling, but I doubt the
 " Mounseers are like to come by the worst
 " on't." His father asked what he had brought
 home he answered, " I have landed a pun-
 cheon

" cheon of as fine arrack, as ever was pierced;
 " I had it in Batavia, in the way of traffick
 " for a negro girl; 'tis in the custom-house
 " 'till the duty is paid. And I have got a
 " punch-bowl that you may swim in, and a
 " little tea, and a fan, with a piece of dimity
 " for brother's wife." That's kind in you,
 " Tim. returned the squire; but you had bet-
 " ter keep them for a wife of your own; I
 " have one in my eye for you; what say you
 " to a pretty tight lass, that worth her weight
 " in gold?" "Thank ye, father, reply'd the
 " tar, no, not at present, I an't minded to
 " marry at this time; I am set upon making
 " another voyage or two, afore I cast anchor
 " for life. A wife is very fitting for a landf-
 " man, that is a housekeeper, for though he
 " keeps ever so good a look out himself, he
 " can't always be home bound, and his con-
 " cerns may run a drift for want of a wife to
 " sit at helm; but for us free sailors, a'ye see,
 " that roam about from port to port, I see no
 " reason why we should be shackled. Besides
 " if so be I were so minded, I have no need of
 " a pilot to direct me what course to steer;
 " an I pitch upon a young woman, I shan't
 " mind her rigging, if her heart be but sound
 " and honest, seeing I have gold enough to
 " put her into what trim I like." The squire
 looked somewhat confounded at this speech,
 and the justice appeared no less disappointed;
 whilst Mr. Manly secretly rejoiced at a decla-
 ration which he hoped would facilitate his ge-
 neral scheme. Mr. Hardy unwilling to carry

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on a further conversation on this subject, least Tim should incur the displeasure of the justice, put the glass about pretty freely, and ordered a fresh bowl of punch to be made of some rum, which he received that morning, assuring his guests, it was right Jamaica, and the best that ever was tipt over tongue.—Upon the appearance of this extraordinary liquor, Tim. filled a glass, but no sooner had he put it to his mouth, than he empty'd it upon the floor, saying, “flesh’s father! is this the liquor you bragged on? mess! ’tisn’t worth sixpence a gallon; ’tis fitting for nothing but to be thrown into the channel;” “say, you so, son?” cry’d the squire, “then I am finely hope up with my bargain; the whose-bud I bought it of, gave me a taste, and, to my thinking, I never drank such a dram in my life; so I bid him send an anchor, for which I paid him four pound, and thought it dog cheap; a rascal! he has taken twenty pounds in a year of me, but if he has choused me, he shall never touch a penny more of my money.” “I’d lay a pound, said the justice, you had it of old Whimper, the smuggler; I used to deal with him ’till I found he imposed upon me, and sold me Colossus spirits for French brandy.” “You are in the right, answered the squire, that was the very man.” “Then, father, said the sailor, you are well enough served, for putting your ventures on such false bottoms, your smugglers an’t a bit better than your pirates.” Mr. Manly seconded him, and inveighed against

against the encouragement given to such a set
 of pernicious miscreants, who he said were not
 only an hindrance to the fair trader, but fre-
 quently the invaders of "private property, as
 " the many robberies some of them have been
 " convicted of, could evidence; and he
 " thought having any commerce with such
 " people, was very inconsistent with warm ex-
 " pressions or regard for the good of our coun-
 " try, since it was very certain they had been
 " accused of holding intelligence with our
 " enemies in time of war; and even in peace,
 " the running of wool, which was the staple
 " commodity of the nation, and has been of
 " the greatest detriment to it." Mr. Manly
 continued this topic some time longer, when
 the justice ordered the chariot; but before he
 departed, took the squire aside, and invited
 him to bring his son to the Sullens, on the
 morrow. Mr. Hardy reply'd, "I give you
 " thanks, but I think it will be better to tarry
 " till the day after, for by that time Tim's
 " face may be well, and he will be able to
 " unpack his bettermost clothes." Upon this
 the justice and Mr. Manly bid him adieu.
 During their little journey, the former address-
 ed the latter, with "Well, squire! what think
 " you of the young spark?" and without wait-
 ing for a reply, continued, "I am half afraid
 " by what he said he may have a fancy to fol-
 " low his uncle's example, and die a batchelor
 " what do think pray?" Mr. Manly answer-
 " ed, from so short an acquaintance, I cannot
 " form an opinion of his real sentiments, but
 " from

“ from those he uttered am inclined to think
 “ he will not prove a very desperate lover.”

— Upon their arrival at the Sullens, Mr. Manly retired to bed, extremely disgusted with the society, in which he had passed the day; and which no inducement, but the hopes of being serviceable to a young creature of Miss Moody's merit, could have occasioned his ever entering into again.

C H A P. VI.

A clergyman makes his appearance.

NEXT morning, Mr. Doughty, the rector of the parish, came to desire the justice would exert his authority in suppressing a riotous rabble, that surrounded dame Limper's house, and were going to force her to the river in order to swim her for a witch. “ I have refused the church bible (continued he) which they demanded to weigh her against, and have used all the arguments I am master of to induce them to leave the poor old soul unmolested, but to no purpose.” “ I know, Mr. Doughty, (replied the justice) you are a peaceable man, and don't like to encourage feuds in the parish: but I must say, dame Limper is an odd kind of a woman; I don't care to say positively that she is a witch, be-

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“ cause a body would not like to lie under
 “ her power; but however, if she is not, it can
 “ do no harm to try her. “ No harm, Sir!
 “ (cried the clergyman) “ do you think it no
 “ harm to endanger the life of a human crea-
 “ ture, by making such an absurd experiment,
 “ purely to gratify the malice of a parcel of ig-
 “ norant fools; who have nothing to alledge
 “ against her, but that age and infirmities have
 “ rendered her burthensome to the parish? for,
 “ as to the silly legends they tell of her, they
 “ can never be credited by any person of com-
 “ mon sense and humanity.” As silly as you
 “ seem to think them, person (returned the
 “ justice) there is very unaccountable stories
 “ told of her, and every body is not bound to
 “ give them the lye; but you have not heard
 “ all that I know, so I’ll tell you one, and then
 “ you may pass a better judgment upon her.
 “ As I was riding home, after the last election
 “ for knights of the shire, I overtook this wo-
 “ man, picking up sticks by Gossling’s farm;
 “ my horse shyed, which I did not much mat-
 “ ter, ’till I spied her, then I must say I dreamt
 “ bad measure, and being in a heat, I huffed
 “ her; and she fell a muttering to herself; I
 “ told her, it was like indeed she should be so
 “ lame as she made believe, and yet could
 “ stray so far from home; whereupon she said,
 “ I am lame, an like your worship, and ’tis
 “ well if you ar’nt forced to use a crutch as well
 “ as I, before a quarter’s at an end. They
 “ were her very words, and as true as I am
 “ alive, in less than ten days I was taken with
 a fit

" a fit of the gout, and walked with a crutch
 " for a month after; what think you of her
 " now?" " Really," said Mr. Manly, " if
 " you would permit me to give my opinion,
 " I should have thought it required no super-
 " natural assistance to prognosticate the con-
 " sequences of a parliamentary scheme, and
 " must own I am an infidel with regard to the
 " idle legends of this sort, with which almost
 " every village abounds." He then remind-
 ed the justice of the recent affair of this nature
 that happened at Tring, and advised him to
 stop the proceedings of the mob, if it were only
 to prevent the like mischief ensuing. This
 last argument was of such weight with the jus-
 tice, (who said, " it would be a pity any of his
 " honest neighbours should be hanged about
 " such a haradan") that he complied with Mr.
 Doughty's desire, who immediately, backed
 with his authority, and proper officers, flew to
 the relief of the decrepid old woman, and
 rescued her from the persecution she underwent
 from the enraged rabble, who dispersed upon
 hearing the riot act. This done, he returned,
 according to an invitation the justice had given
 him, to dine with Mr. Manly, to whom the
 conversation of this worthy divine was much
 more agreeable than any he had been engaged
 in since he left town. After dinner the justice
 asked the clergyman, what was become of the
 lady that was at his house two years ago? He
 replied, " I had the pleasure of seeing her late-
 " ly, and she was well." " Pray, cried Moody,
 " what made her keep herself so moped up,

" that a body could never see her?—I have
 " had a fancy to ask you a long time, but it
 " always went out of my head; my daughter
 " said, she seemed a good kind of a woman,
 " only a little melancholy, and did not much
 " care for strange company." The dejection
 she was under, " replied the clergyman, was
 " owing to such a cause, Sir, as deserved com-
 " miseration, and as she was conscious she
 " could not conceal it from company, chose
 " solitude. But, since she left me, she has a
 " better relish for society." " May-hap then,
 " returned the justice, she has met with some
 " good luck, that she did not expect." " If
 " you please, Sir, answered Mr. Doughty, I
 " will give you an account of the fortune she
 " has met with." " Do so, cried Moody,
 " and I shall be obligated to you." Mr.
 Manly joining in this request, the clergyman
 began his narrative.

C H A P. VII.

Contains an history.

" **T**HAT lady, Sir, was the only child of
 " a gentleman of large fortune, and left
 " an orphan, with an estate surpassing most in
 " the county where she was born, to the care
 " of a worthy guardian, who gave her a polite
 " education,

“ education, and cultivated the good under-
 “ standing which she inherited with all possible
 “ care. The fame of her accomplishments
 “ and fortune, brought her admirers from all
 “ parts of the kingdom, but she declined wed-
 “ lock, ’till she arrived at that age, when the
 “ laws of the land put her into possession of
 “ her whole estate, and then received the ad-
 “ dresses of a gentleman, who was recom-
 “ mended by her guardian, of good character,
 “ polite conversation, and equivalent fortune.
 “ And after an acquaintance of some months,
 “ married him. Their affection appeared to
 “ be reciprocal, and neither could accuse the
 “ other of the least unkind expression or action
 “ for more than a year. In this peaceable
 “ manner they remained, ’till one day, her
 “ husband having invited some friends to dine
 “ with him, received a letter, which he had no
 “ sooner perused, than he said, he was obliged
 “ to go out for a few hours, upon an affair of
 “ some moment, and if he should not be able
 “ to dispatch it time enough to meet his com-
 “ pany, begged she would entertain them.
 “ Accordingly, when his friends arrived, she
 “ apologized for his absence at dinner, but
 “ hoped he would join them in the evening.
 “ They waited ’till nine o’clock, and he not
 “ appearing, bid her adieu, and she sat up ’till
 “ two in the morning in expectation of his re-
 “ turn, and began to grow extremely appre-
 “ hensive, as he went out unattended, that
 “ some mischance had befallen him. Her un-
 “ easiness continuing to increase, she dispatch-

“ ed messengers to all parts of the town, (for
 “ they were in London) where she could think
 “ he might be, but all of them returning with-
 “ out being able to gain any intelligence of
 “ him, augmented her anxiety, and she re-
 “ mained near a week in this uncertainty and
 “ perplexity, when she received a letter from
 “ him, dated from no place, the contents of
 “ which, at any other time, would have shock-
 “ ed her more than at this juncture, when the
 “ dreadful apprehensions that some very dread-
 “ ful misfortune had happened to him, had
 “ put her into such agitations, that she was
 “ not so strongly affected with what more im-
 “ mediately affected herself.—He told her in
 “ this letter, he hoped she was mistress of a
 “ a sufficient stock of philosophy to bear a dis-
 “ appointment; and, in short, after a slight
 “ preface, which contained no apology for
 “ his behaviour, said, as she had hitherto been
 “ an obedient wife, he expected she should
 “ conform to his pleasure, and be content to
 “ live apart from him for the future, without
 “ troublinging herself about the course he should
 “ pursue, since all inquiries after him would
 “ be as fruitless as any attempt to alter the
 “ resolution he had made, of passing his life
 “ as free as if he had never been engaged in
 “ the marriage-bonds, which he found too
 “ heavy to endure; at the same time, he ac-
 “ knowledged, he had nothing to alledge
 “ against her more than being his wife, pro-
 “ testing if he had never married, he should
 “ have continued her passionate lover; but, as
 “ the

“ the case was, he could not bear constraint,
 “ and advised her to reside with some friend
 “ that was agreeable to her, and forget there
 “ was ever such a person as himself. He re-
 “ minded her of the regard she had always ex-
 “ pressed for her reputation, which this was
 “ the most likely method of preserving; and
 “ after giving her an assurance that she should
 “ have the interest of her fortune punctually
 “ transmitted to her, for her own use at any
 “ place she would please to appoint, by a line
 “ addressed to Z. X. at Will’s coffee-house,
 “ where he would order his agent to receive it,
 “ he concluded, with wishing this separation
 “ might be as agreeable to her inclinations as
 “ to his.” “ I never heard the like !” cried
 the justice, “ well ! what followed ? I hope she
 “ was not such a fool as to vex herself about
 “ him, since he allowed her her portion.”

“ On receipt of this astonishing epistle (con-
 “ tinued Mr. Doughty) she communicated the
 “ contents to a near friend and relation, who
 “ sincerely sympathized with her in her afflic-
 “ tion, and advised her to observe his direc-
 “ tions, in hopes, by such a compliance, to
 “ make him sensible of his error. Accord-
 “ ingly, she went down into a distant county,
 “ with there family, where she lived in a very
 “ retired manner, giving no one information
 “ of her place of residence but her husband,
 “ in the method he prescribed. She received
 “ her allowance duly, and all she could save,
 “ after defraying her necessary expences, she
 “ appro-

“ appropriated to charitable uses, as an atone-
 “ ment for some crime, which, she said, she
 “ feared she had inadvertently committed, to
 “ provoke Heaven to punish her, by depriving
 “ her of the affections of an husband she
 “ esteemed with the greatest degree of sin-
 “ cerity. When she had lived a recluse life
 “ many years, the lady, in whose family she
 “ resided, came upon business into this neigh-
 “ bourhood, and brought her with her; where
 “ she heard of my wife, who being her school-
 “ fellow, and very intimate with her in her
 “ younger years, she wrote to, and expressed
 “ a great inclination to see, upon which we
 “ gave her an invitation to our house, but
 “ could not prevail with her to accept it, ’till
 “ we made a promise, that she should be as
 “ retired as she pleased; by this assurance we
 “ obtained her company for a month, in which
 “ time, I discovered such a fund of piety,
 “ good sense, and good nature, in her compo-
 “ sition, as increased my wonder at, and detes-
 “ tation of, the treatment she had met with.
 “ Not long after she left us, she received a
 “ letter from her husband, indited in the most
 “ penitential and affectionate stile, soliciting
 “ her return to him, who was not only ready
 “ to receive her, with a proper sense of her
 “ extraordinary merit, but should esteem her
 “ pardon of the transgression he had been
 “ guilty of, as an obligation of the highest
 “ kind; and promising the whole tenour of
 “ his future conduct should testify the sincerity
 “ of his intentions, and the ardent affection

“ he

" he had for her. This epistle she commu-
 " nicated to her friend, who at first would have
 " dissuaded her from a compliance with his
 " request; but she telling her she had never
 " yet been guilty of the breach of any duty
 " to him; said, she was determined to obey
 " his present injunctions, and set out imme-
 " diately for town, where he, being apprized
 " of her design, was prepared to receive her.
 " At their first interview, a flood of tears flow-
 " ed mutually, and prevented them from
 " speaking, when the consciousness of her
 " worth, and his own behaviour, so overcame
 " him, that he flung himself into a chair, the
 " tears streaming from his eyes. She appre-
 " hending the occasion of his taciturnity, in-
 " stead of upbraiding him with his fault, went
 " to him, and, throwing her arms around his
 " neck, vented thanks to Heaven for his safe-
 " ty; which caused him to break forth into
 " many invectives against his own wickedness
 " and folly, in deserting so amiable a compa-
 " nion. This meeting happened two years
 " ago, since which they have lived in an unin-
 " terrupted state of harmony. He has told
 " her, that the company of a set of rakes, with
 " whom he was acquainted, influenced his
 " actions, and their instigations, joined to these
 " insinuations, of an artful abandoned woman,
 " into whose company they introduced him,
 " gave him a dislike to the married state,
 " which these libertines represented as a thral-
 " dom unbecoming a lord of the creation to
 " submit to. He owned, their rally occa-
 sioned

" sioned him to leave her, and the kingdom,
 " and to take his mistress with him, whose
 " loose and extravagant behaviour soon made
 " him repent of the exchange ; and that, whilst
 " he was in Italy, he was perpetually engaged
 " in brawls, which her conduct occasioned,
 " and so intimidated by her threatnings of
 " sending him out of the world, upon the
 " least contradiction of her humour, that,
 " though she was become his aversion, he was
 " obliged to comply with all her desires ; 'till
 " at last being unable to support the weight of
 " his own conscience, that was continually ac-
 " cusing him of the villainy he was guilty of,
 " he was induced to follow the dictates of that
 " unerring monitor, and wrote a letter to a
 " sensible friend in England, with whom he
 " had held no correspondence since his attach-
 " ment to this vile woman, in which he made
 " a frank confession of the situation of his
 " mind and the remorse he felt for the crime
 " he had been guilty of, to the most deserving
 " of wives. This friend, on receipt of the
 " letter, went over to encourage him to pro-
 " secute the laudable scheme he proposed, in
 " order to rid himself of the wretch, that had
 " occasioned his defection from his wife. On
 " his arrival, he told him, if his contrition was
 " sincere, and the professions he had made to
 " repair by a suitable conduct for the future,
 " the injury his lady had sustained, he did not
 " doubt, but he could bring about a reconcili-
 " liation between them. This he feared was
 " impracticable, though he assured his friend
 " there

" there was nothing he more ardently desired,
 " than a re-union with that amiable creature ;
 " and whether he succeeded or not, in his
 " applications for her pardon, he was resolved
 " to abandon his mistress, with whom he knew
 " not how to hold a conference upon that
 " theme, and therefore, desired this friend to
 " inform her of his intentions, and to give her
 " five hundred pounds in notes, that she might
 " not be induced by poverty to continue in
 " that way of life. The gentleman performed
 " his request ; and was quite regardless of the
 " rage which this news put her into, or the
 " opprobrious language with which she insult-
 " ed him. At their parting, she desired him
 " to tell the fool that sent him upon this er-
 " rand, if she could have obtained the purse
 " he had now given her by any other means,
 " he should not have been incommoded with
 " her company many days, for she would have
 " embarked with his valet, who was much the
 " most agreeable man, for another part of the
 " world. So ended this affair, with which his
 " lady has too much good sense and humanity
 " to reproach him ; on the contrary, she takes
 " every opportunity of expressing her sensibi-
 " lity of his present obliging behaviour."
 When Mr. Doughty had finished this narrative,
 the justice cried out, " a clever woman ! I'll
 " warrant her, she need not have been ashamed
 " to have shown her face ; I wish Rose had
 " been better acquainted with her, for she
 " could have learnt her obedience." Mr.
 Manly expressed great approbation of the lady's
 prudent

prudent conduct, and breathed many hearty wishes for a continuance of her happiness. The clergyman was now called home to receive a gentleman who he was informed was just arrived at his house. He quitted the justice, with a promise of returning to spend the evening.

C H A P. VIII..

An account of Mr. Doughty's visitor

ON Mr. Doughty's return to the Sullens, the justice desired to know, who had called him away; he reply'd, "Mr. Ricks," "ho! ho! said Moody, he is a bridegroom," "I understand, did not you joy him? for he has got a widow with a power of money." "I congratulated him, reply'd the clergyman, on his alliance with a very ingenious woman, but her fortune was not such as the world reported." "How so?" cry'd the justice, "I thought her spouse had left her a mort." "Most people, answered Mr. Doughty, imagined he had been very liberal to her, and it was not 'till some time after she became Mr. Ricks's wife, that he was acquainted with her real circumstances." Why that's strange, said Moody, "she must be very cunning to deceive him, he is a wary kind of a
" man,

" man, I am certain, for I have had dealings
 " with him; he once bought a mare of me,
 " and I am sure he made as hard a bargain as
 " any man, that 'tis much he should be cheat-
 " ed in a wife." " The case was thus," re-
 turn'd the clergyman, " Mrs. Ricks, brought
 " a very good fortune to her first husband,
 " who had more wit than prudence, and she,
 " having a greater propensity to gaiety than
 " oeconomy; they together lavished it away.
 " In his last illness he lamented this dissipation,
 " and declared he knew not how she could
 " subsist, as the post he held during life, had
 " no pension annexed to it. She told him it
 " was in vain to bewail what was past re-call,
 " and she should be perfectly content, if he
 " would make a will, and bequeath ten thou-
 " sand pounds to her. He, with great surprize
 " at the request, reply'd, he had not so many
 " shillings to dispose of; she said, that was
 " nothing to the purpose, and only intreated
 " him to oblige her in this particular; accord-
 " ingly, after many persuasions, he made a for-
 " mal will, in which he bequeathed her the
 " full sum she desired, and made her sole ex-
 " ecutrix; she administered to this will, which
 " was proved in due form. And, then put off
 " her house in the country, and went to Lon-
 " don. The report of her fortune, was pre-
 " sently spread throughout the county, and
 " reached Mr. Ricks's ears, who was always
 " her admirer, but would never have pretend-
 " ed to her, had he imagined it to have been
 " less than the world gave out. He followed
 Vol. II. F " her

“ her to town, and made his addressee to her,
 “ as early as decency would permit; she know-
 “ ing his estate to be very considerable, was
 “ not averse to his proposals. However, she
 “ told him, she feared he was not acquainted
 “ with the circumstances, in which her husband
 “ left her, declaring they were not equal, to
 “ common report, or what he might expect.
 “ This declaration he imputed to her modesty,
 “ having been at the trouble to procure a sight
 “ of the will, before he made his offers; and
 “ being from that fully persuaded she had the
 “ money therein specified, made many protes-
 “ tations of a passionate regard for her, exclu-
 “ sive of mercenary views, and pressed her to
 “ accept him immediately; he was so impor-
 “ tunate, that after a few visits, in which she
 “ had always assured him, her fortune fell short
 “ of every body’s expectations, she at last told
 “ him, if he had such an affection for her as
 “ he professed, and would take her with the
 “ trifling sum she was possessed of, she would
 “ have the gratitude to make him a good wife;
 “ positively declaring there was no credit to
 “ be given to publick rumour. All these de-
 “ clarations were not sufficient to convince
 “ him that he was mistaken; and conjecturing
 “ that they were designed only to try whether
 “ his attachment was not rather to her fortune
 “ than person, he affected to believe her; he
 “ told her, he had indeed heard that she was
 “ possessed of three or four thousand pounds,
 “ (being willing to under-rate what he had
 “ seen in the will, lest she should imagine, he
 “ had

" had had the curiosity to enquire so narrowly)
 " but if report had exaggerated, his estate was
 " sufficient." She smiling, answered, I wish
 " you may not repent, for I find you have been
 " misinformed; but, however, if you have ge-
 " nerosity enough to marry me, after what I
 " have told you, I am ready to accept your
 " offer. Accordingly they were married pri-
 " vately in town. Some weeks passed on,
 " before he mentioned the contents of her late
 " husband's will, expecting every day she
 " would inform him where the money was
 " lodged; but finding her silent upon that
 " head, he made enquiry after it. She answer-
 " ed she had no such sum, and that she had
 " often told him he was not to expect any
 " thing with her. He told her, she had no
 " occasion to carry on the deception any long-
 " er, declaring he had consulted her husband's
 " will, and from that was acquainted with her
 " circumstances. Upon this she frankly con-
 " fessed how the affair was, saying, she was as
 " much obliged to her former husband, as if
 " he could have bestowed such a fortune upon
 " her, since the report of it, had induced him
 " to make choice of her." " I shall ever ac-
 " knowledge myself indebted to your gene-
 " rosity, continued she, and will endeavour by
 " œconomy to preserve your estate; and per-
 " haps, I may be enabled to add to it, by a
 " proper use of what I acquired at the expence
 " of a much larger." " What a shame, did
 " she mean?" cry'd the justice, " experience,
 " answered Mr. Doughty," " She told Mr.

“ Ricks she was too well convinced of the fa-
 “ tal effects of extravagance, to pursue such a
 “ course for the future ; and if he had that dis-
 “ interested regard, which he profess’d for her,
 “ she should esteem herself more fortunate,
 “ than if she had ten thousand pound really in
 “ her possession.” “ Good lack, cry’d Moody,
 “ I never heard of such a gipsy ! what said
 “ her spouse to her serving him such a trick ?”
 “ I believe, answered the clergyman, he was
 “ ashamed, after the many declarations he had
 “ made, to own his disappointment ; and as he
 “ was sensible the knot he had ty’d could not
 “ be dissolved, and she was a woman of good
 “ nature, and had many amiable qualifications,
 “ he never appeared the least chagrin’d at her
 “ confession. I must own, I cannot applaud
 “ her artifice, though I think the mercenary
 “ motive that induced him to marry her, well
 “ merited such a return.” Whilst they were
 discoursing on this affair, Mr. Doughty received
 a post letter, which he informed the com-
 pany came from a young gentleman, who had
 resided some years abroad, and was formerly
 his pupil, when he kept a private academy near
 London. “ He acquaints me, continued he,
 “ with his intentions of being in town soon,
 “ which gives me great pleasure as I have long
 “ regretted his absence.” Mr. Manly upon
 this said, he imagined he would be in town to
 meet him, and gave Mr. Doughty an invitation
 to his house, if he came, for which he received
 a compliment from the clergyman, with a pro-
 mise of spending one day with him, if he went.
 And then bid him and the justice adieu.

C H A P. IX.

Gives an account of the interview between Mr. Timothy, and Miss Moody.

MR. Manly took the opportunity of the justice's attending Mr. Doughty to the gate, to give Miss Moody notice of the company her father expected next day, and told her, she need not be under any apprehensions of Mr. Hardy, for, by what he could gather from his conversation, he was not over fond of his father's scheme.

The next morning, at breakfast, the old gentleman ordered his daughter to dress herself in the new gown he had desired her aunt Severn to procure for her against this occasion; accordingly, she made her appearance in an exceeding handsome petit-lair, which he no sooner perceived, than he bid her pull off that fly flap jacket, for he could not abide the sight of it; "I wonder, continued he, sister Severn, should be such a ninny-hammer, to buy such a fer-brawn thing; she knew well enough, I never grudged to pay for your cloathes, and I did not think there was any occasion to pray her to let it be long enough." The young lady finding he was so displeased with her dress, without making any reply, went immediately and changed it. The good humour with which she behaved in this trivial incident, served to enhance Mr.

Manly's opinion of the sweetness of her disposition. Whilst she was gone, her father continued muttering at Mrs. Severn's folly and covetousness, as he called it, when his visitant informed him, the habit he condemned, was, he imagined, fashionable, as he had observed it to be very common amongst ladies. "Aye, "aye," replied the justice, "I have seen of "them afore now, and 'tis very fit for folks "that ca'nt afford to get a whole gown to "their backs; but while I have wherewithal "to pay for it, Rose shall have as much in her "cloaths as other young gentlewomen." He was now employed in stumping about the house in order, he said, "to see if every thing "was to right's before Mr. Timothy came." Upon his arrival, the justice ushered the squire and him, into his great parlour, which was no less spacious an apartment than that in which Mr. Manly lay; and contained a dozen worm-eaten cane chairs, of a sufficient height to preserve the floor from being soiled by any feet, that had not the legs of a Potzdam dragoon annexed to them.—A pair of virginals at the upper end, over which hung a broken bass-viol.—A large oaken dining-table under his own picture, drawn in a full bottomed wig, and a dressed suit of cloathes embroidered, with a gun in his hand, and a spaniel by his side, his daughter over the chimney, in a white frock, with a coronet upon her head, and placed in an attitude for dancing, one hand being fixed to her petitcoat, in the other a parrot perched, a large piony in her bosom, and a piece

piece of water at her feet. The squire, at his entrance, saluted Miss Moody, then gave Tim a push by the shoulder, and bid him follow his example; upon which, having wiped his mouth with a corner of his handkerchief he gave her a hearty smack. The justice welcomed them with great formality to the Sullens, and desired them to seat themselves. It was a considerable time before they could adjust the ceremonials of their situation; at last all were placed but Tim, who continued walking round the room, and whistling, not seeming to have any inclination to fix, 'till his father, pointing to the lady, gave him a nod. He then drew a chair, and said to her, "If you please, miss, I'll keep along-side of you." At this, the old gentleman tipt the wink upon each other. He had not set by her many minutes, before he threw his arm around her waist, in a very familiar manner, saying, "mefs! you are as strait as a main-mast, and a good tight little frigate." She seemed greatly confounded at this freedom, and endeavoured to disengage herself from him, which the squire perceiving, said, "I hope, miss, you a'nt offended with Tim, he is an honest lad though he is mine, and do'nt mean any offence;" no, added the tar, I mean no harm, as father says, I hope you do'nt think I'd offer any thing unhand-some, but mayhap, you had rather I would heave off." She making no reply to this speech, he rose from his chair, and again traversed the room, whilst the justice gave his daughter many significant frowns, which Mr. Manly

Manly observing, endeavoured to turn the conversation, by putting several questions to the sailor, concerning navigation, which amused them 'till dinner was served up. During which the squire gave Miss Moody many hints that served to heighten her confusion; she retired to another room as soon as she was able, and the father of Mr. Timothy took that opportunity to bestow high commendations on her person and temper, earnestly recommending her to him for a wife; to which, the justice added, "if Mr. Timothy can fancy her, I'll make her portion more than what his uncle left him." Whilst the old gentlemen were discoursing on this subject, Tim. was employed in filling a pipe, and whistling the rakes of Marlow; his father, somewhat displeased at this indifference, rebuked him for it, and asked what he had to say to squire Moody's kind offer? He replied, turning to the justice, "thank ye friend for the offer of your money, but I ha no need on't at this time; I ha nothing to say against the young gentlewoman, but as I told father, last night just afore I turn'd in, I a'nt minded to marry, so what signifies striving against the stream. I can speak to her as well as another man, but if so be, she should take a liking to me, she may break her heart, for I am fully set for another voyage; and if I should court her, and then leave her adrift, mayhap she may greive, so I think it more fitting for me to let her alone at present. Mayhap, when I come home again, my mind may veer
 " about."

" about." " You tarpawlin whelp," said the
 " squire, have I been at all this trouble to
 " bring about a match for you with a young
 " gentlewoman, that deserves the best squire
 " or pensioner in the land, and do you pre-
 " tend to gain-say it, for no reason, but be-
 " cause I am set o'nt," " Avast, avast, father,
 " cried Tim, you take fire too soon; I am my
 " own man, dye'fee, I do'nt need to come to
 " you for gold at this time; I gave you no
 " fowl language; if I am a whelp, I count
 " mother told you, I was your son, but though
 " I am your son, I am a free sailor, and not
 " your galley slave, to be chained to what ves-
 " sel you see fitting. I an't against speaking
 " to the gentlewoman in a civil way, but I
 " would not for the sake of lucre, say one
 " thing, and mean quite the contrary; there-
 " fore, 'tis a folly to think to bring me to by
 " foul means. I came to see you out of duty,
 " but if so be, you keep putting in your oar
 " about my business, I shall set sail the first
 " fair wind." Mr. Manly, perceiving the old
 gentlemen were both choaked with passion,
 feared, if further provoked, they might vent it
 in indecent rage. Invited Mr. Timothy to
 " take a turn with him in the garden; " with
 " all my heart," returned the tar, who attend-
 ed him with his pipe in his mouth, and hav-
 ing taken two or three strides in the grass walk,
 and puffed a volley of smoak in Mr. Manly's
 face, said to him, " I understand, Sir, you are a
 " stranger in these parts; mayhap, you come
 " in chase of the young woman here; if so be
 " that

" that is the case, do'nt let me be your hin-
 " drance." Mr. Manly smiled at the suppo-
 sition, but assured him, he had no intentions of
 that sort; then asked him, why he was so
 averse to his father's choice? he replied, " as I
 " said afore, I have nothing to say against her,
 " but I never could abide to be put out of my
 " own course, and my father shan't think to
 " steer me; she is very well for such as can
 " like her, but she is no more to compare to
 " some gentlewoman that I have seen, than a
 " fishing smack, to a Estcourt Indiaman;
 " s'flesh! I like a jolly young woman, and I
 " speak my mind to you, because I hope you
 " won't take it amiss, I don't care to squabble
 " with the old man, but if so be he thinks to
 " tow me after all his fancies, I shall break my
 " cable, let him take it as he will; I hope the
 " young woman ha'nt set her mind upon me,
 " for I ca'nt be her man, and I wish you would
 " tell her so, for I do'nt care to hold much
 " discourse with her, for fear she should think
 " me uncivil." Mr. Manly said, he might be
 perfectly easy upon that head, for, to his certain
 knowledge, her affections were already bestow-
 ed upon a very deserving man, and though she
 suffered his visit purely in obedience to Mr.
 Moody's injunctions, it was putting a great
 constraint upon her inclinations. " I am glad
 " to hear she has got a sweet-heart," returned
 the sailor, " but if her father knew so much,
 " d'ye see, it wa'nt fair play to offer her to me;
 " may-hap, I might have taken a liking to her,
 " and she would have sheer'd off with the
 " landf-

"landfman, and proved false-hearted to'en."
 "Mr. Moody, (replied Mr. Manly) was well
 "acquainted with her inclinations, but, as her
 "lover, may not be so much indebted to for-
 "tune as you, endeavoured to turn the bent
 "of them towards you. Yet I know she will
 "think herself under the highest obligation,
 "if you will be so generous as to take the
 "blame upon yourself, since a refusal from
 "her, will only exasperate her father against
 "her." "Aye," cried the tar, "with all my
 "heart, I don't value his anger a rope's-end.
 "I'll tell'en 'tis a folly to strive against wind
 "and tide, and let'en know I would not have
 "her if she was as rich laden as an Acapulca
 "ship, and if I loved her as well as I do the
 "mermaids; I'll go to him, and tell'en so to
 "rights, for 'tis a folly to keep the young wo-
 "man between hawk and buzzard." Mr.
 Manly finding him so determined, advised him
 to decline the affair in as soft a manner as pos-
 sible, since it was evident, the justice made him
 a great compliment in his offer, and would be
 amazed at his rejecting it. He then asked
 him, when he proposed to take another voyage?
 he replied, "may-hap in the spring, may-hap
 "not till spring twelve-month, for I have busi-
 "ness to do in London concerning the moneys
 "and lands as uncle left me." Upon this,
 Mr. Manly gave him an invitation to dine at
 his house in town, when his affairs called him
 there; he thanked him, and replied, "may-
 "hap I may see you, for I must go your way,
 "to give a few shells, that I brought for a
 "young

" young gentlewoman from her brother, as
 " lives at fort St. George." On their return
 into the parlour, they found the old gentlemen
 fast asleep in two elbow chairs; however, the
 noise of their entrance awakened them, and
 they resumed the marriage topic, when Tim,
 resolutely refused to comply with their proposi-
 tion, and, after thanking the justice for his ci-
 vility, said, " I would wish you to find out a
 " mate more fitting for her, for tho', I can't
 " deny, but that she is a handsome young wo-
 " man, she don't suit my fancy." The squire
 finding it in vain to pretend any authority over
 his inclinations, was obliged to resign all pre-
 tensions to an alliance with Mr. Moody; and
 after making several awkward apologies for his
 son's ill-manners, he departed, leaving the jus-
 tice excessively mortified at the ill success of
 his negociation. As soon as they were out of
 hearing, he gave vent to his passion, and be-
 stowed the epithets of rogue, rascal, and fool,
 very liberally on Tim. Mr. Manly endea-
 voured to sooth him, by representing the ill
 consequences which might have attended his
 daughter's union with a man, who was incapa-
 ble of discerning her merit, or of making her a
 suitable companion, and concluded, with con-
 gratulating him on her escape. The old gen-
 tleman replied, " what you say, is right enough,
 " he an't good enough for her, an obstinate
 " headstrong puppy! all that disturbs me, is,
 " that I should be such a fool, as to conde-
 " scend to seek to such an out of the way
 " whelp! and here I have given you the trouble

" to

" to come after him." Mr. Manly answered,
 he was " far from thinking it any, and should
 " be glad to do him, or Miss Moody, any
 " service; adding, if you would permit me to
 " recommend an husband to her, I will endea-
 " vour to find a gentleman of an unexception-
 " able character, and one who shall pay the
 " deference to you as to his natural parents."
 " Aye, Sir, returned the justice, that would be
 " a blessed thing indeed! If so be, you could
 " find such a black swan, that is, and provided
 " he should be worth any thing, I should be
 " glad to get rid of her, for I am tired with
 " watching her ways, and I have never joyed
 " myself at the club or green, since I knew of
 " the Potheary, for fear, when I was out of
 " the way, he should find some contrivance to
 " get at her; they talk of an act of parliament
 " against predetermine marriages, I wish you could
 " contrive to make such a one, for 'tis a sad
 " torment to be plagued with daughters run-
 " ning away hare-um scare-um with fellows.
 " But for fear you should not be able to bring
 " about such an act; I wish Rose was safe mar-
 " ried; and out of harms-way, yet, she is so
 " perverse, she'll never be persuaded to take a
 " man I shall like." " I am in hopes she
 " will," replied Manly, " bring her up to
 " town, and I'll introduce a gentleman to your
 " acquaintance whom I have in my eye."
 " Since you say so much, said the justice, I'll
 " go to sister Severn's in the spring, and I'll
 " carry the girl with me, and then, if you will
 " be so kind to come to see me, you may find
 Vol. II. G " a way

“ a way to bring he you think on to Hamp-
 “ stead, and may-hap we may make a bar-
 “ gain.” After some further conversation on
 this and other subjects, Mr. Manly told Mr.
 Moody; he proposed being in town the next
 day, the justice used many intreaties to induce
 him to lengthen his visit, but he assuring him
 there was an absolute necessity for his return,
 the old gentleman had no more to say. All
 this time, Miss Moody remained in a state of
 suspense, with regard to Tim’s determination,
 but upon the old gentleman’s leaving the room
 after supper, Mr. Manly acquainted her with
 all that had passed, and received her thanks for
 the pains he had taken to mitigate her father’s
 resentment. After reminding her of her pro-
 mise, not to engage herself in marriage without
 the sanction of her father, he told her he had a
 distant prospect of giving him a more favour-
 able idea of Mr. Lee; however, it was better
 for her not to indulge too sanguine expectations
 of that event; but to appear as easy as possible,
 whilst the old gentleman did not pretend to
 insist upon a change in her situation, which he
 was certain he would not at present attempt.
 She seemed very much dejected, when he in-
 formed her of his intentions to leave the Sul-
 lens, and said, she dreaded his removal, lest her
 father should reproach her with Mr. Hardy’s
 behaviour; he assured her, she had no reason
 to indulge such fears, for the old gentleman
 had given him his word never to mention the
 affair more. With this agreeable intelligence
 she retired, and passed a more tranquil night
 than

than she had known for many months. Next morning, Mr. Manly bid farewell to the Sullens, after giving the justice and his daughter a pressing invitation to pass some time with him in town.

C H A P. X.

Contains conversation pieces, and a short history.

MR. Manly was met on his return, upon Epping-Forest by one of his servants, who told him he was going to Mr. Moody's to inform him of the death of his old house-keeper. This news affected him extremely, and the more, as he feared some neglect occasioned by his absence might have hastened her end; but upon a strict examination he was convinced, at the first appearance of danger, the most speedy and judicious assistance was employed for her recovery, and that no human means were wanting to prolong her life. He paid all possible respect to her memory, and ordered her the same solemnity of funeral pomp, which he had bestowed upon his own mother, and as she had but a trifling sum to bequeath to a nephew and niece, who were in distress he generously made them a present of five hundred pounds. And never quitted his house, or saw company, 'till he had attended her remains,

and deposited them by those of her ancestors. When he had performed the last offices to this good woman, he sent to invite Mr. Lee to spend a day with him, and gave him a circumstantial account of the transactions of the Sullens. The lover having poured forth his acknowledgments for this instance of his friendship, spoke the sentiments of his heart without reserve, and renewed his protestations of a sincere and disinterested affection for Miss Moody. Upon which, Mr. Manly said, if he would engage to treat the justice with the respect due to her father, and overlook his foibles, with all the obstinate opposition he had met with, and leave the disposition of the lady's fortune entirely to his option, he would do his utmost to promote an amicable alliance between them. " You must consider, Sir, added Manly, Mr. Moody is an entire stranger to you, and perhaps too much biassed, by the notion of the extensive authority of a parent; yet his rigour must, upon reflection, be imputed to a good cause, though the effect is harsh, a careful regard for the future welfare, and a provision of a very deserving and only child, I am persuaded, is the motive that has principally influenced his actions against you, rather than personal pique." " Sir, reply'd the Apothecary, I should be very undeserving the particular esteem that valuable young lady honours me with, if I was not ready to pay a proper deference to a person, so near and dear to her; I am not only willing to follow your kind advice, but if I should ever

" be

“ be so happy, as to obtain the dear object of
 “ my wishes, I should desire Mr. Moody to
 “ settle every shilling he thinks proper to be-
 “ stow upon her, in such a manner, as to put
 “ it entirely in her power, and would make it
 “ the study of my life to oblige him.” Mr.
 Manly, quite satisfied with these assurances,
 determined to introduce him to the justice, and
 to plead for him, when he had an opportunity.
 —Mr. Lee’s practice being very considerable,
 he could not find leisure for a longer stay with
 this friend, at that time, but took his leave.
 And Mr. Manly proceeded to Col. Jeffson’s,
 where he found Miss Murrells fixt much to her
 satisfaction; her lady treated her in so humane
 and genteel a manner, that she told him, pro-
 vided she could be so happy to continue in that
 family, she should never indulge a wish to enter
 into an higher sphere. Mrs. Jeffson professed
 an equal regard for her, and spoke of her in
 terms of the sincerest affection. Highly pleased
 with having procured so agreeable a situation
 for her, he repaired to Mrs. Hill’s, who inform-
 ed him, that Miss Murrells had rejected a very
 advantageous offer of marriage, from a wealthy
 Linnen-Draper, that had seen her, when she re-
 sided with her; she said, as he was a man of
 character, good sense, and not disagreeable in
 person, she was a good deal concerned at her
 refusing his addresses, and wished Mr. Manly
 would mention the affair to her. To which,
 he reply’d, “ From your representation of the
 “ proposer, I should be inclined to wish such
 “ a match could be effected. And if you will

“ favour me with a recital of his condition and
 “ circumstances, I shall be better enabled to en-
 “ force his suit.” “ His name,” answered she,
 “ is Ellet,—he is about five and thirty; and
 “ has been in trade for himself these ten years.
 “ —He is the son of a worthy divine, who,
 “ though he had a plentiful income, and was
 “ an excellent œconomist, had so numerous a
 “ family, that the dividend each child received
 “ from him, was short of a thousand pounds :
 “ Mr. Ellet, was the youngest son, and just
 “ bound out to an eminent Linnen-Draper,
 “ when his father died. His master was an
 “ old batchelor, who had not a near relation
 “ in the world, a man of strict probity and
 “ judgment in his dealings ; finding young
 “ Ellet very diligent, faithful, and prudent, at
 “ the expiration of his servitude, he took him
 “ in partner in the trade ; and he continuing
 “ to behave with the utmost sobriety and gra-
 “ titude, his benefactor, in a few years, resign-
 “ ed up his whole business to him, furnishing
 “ him with money and credit to pursue it to
 “ the greatest advantage. The old man per-
 “ ceived, with infinite satisfaction, he had not
 “ bestowed his benefaction on a barren soil,
 “ and after enjoying the fruits of it, which was
 “ returned to him a hundred fold, in the grate-
 “ ful retributions and filial respect paid him by
 “ Mr. Ellet, he died three years since, leaving
 “ his whole substance to this worthy man ; a
 “ fortune sufficient to entitle him to an al-
 “ liance with a woman ; of a much higher
 “ rank.—All this I acquainted Miss Murrells
 “ with

“ with, but could not prevail with her to permit his addresses, which makes me apprehensive, she may have engaged her affections, where there is not so fortunate a prospect.”

At Mr. Manly's return home, he wrote to Mrs. Jeffon, and begg'd her to permit Miss Murrells, to meet him at Mrs. Hill's, on the Monday, having an affair of some moment to impart to her, in which Mrs. Hill was concerned; at the same time he desired her to acquaint Miss Murrells with his request. According to this appointment he went on the Monday to the Milliner's, where he held a long and serious conference with Miss Murrells, on the subject that occasioned their interview, the result of which was, a determination on her side to remain in the state she was in. She acknowledged herself greatly obliged for the kind wishes of her friends; and said, she was no less indebted to Mr. Ellet, for his good opinion, and the honour he intended her, but she had no inclination to change her condition; and desired nothing more, than to pass thro' life in the obscurity, and ease she enjoyed, from the indulgent friendship of her kind mistress; and she thought it more eligible to retain a certain good, than to run the hazard of parting with it, from the specious appearance of what, if obtained, might not in reality prove so. Her friends finding her so resolved, ceased to importune her to accept Mr. Ellet, and the discourse turned upon the family in which she resided. Mrs. Hill, who was quite unacquainted with the Col. and his lady, otherwise than
by

by report, said, she had heard great characters of them both ; and should be glad to be better known to them. " They are," answered Mr. Manly, " as worthy a couple, as I know, and " I believe, as happy as any in the kingdom ; " from the long intimacy which has subsisted " between the Colonel and I, I am acquainted " with some anecdotes relating to them, which " I think will prove that the common asser- " tion, of the heart's being susceptible of a " sincere passion but for one object, erroneous." This speech induced Mrs. Hill and Miss Murrells to request he would favour them with their history, which he readily related as you will find in the following chapter.

C H A P. XI.

Mr. Manly relates Colonel Jeffon's history.

" **T**HE Colonel, said Mr. Manly, was the " second son of a worthy and wealthy " baronet, and designed for the law, for which " purpose, after receiving an academical edu- " cation, he prosecuted his studies at the tem- " ple, and was qualified to make a considerable " figure at the bar, when his father, Sir Francis " died, who left him an estate sufficient to " qualify him for a seat in parliament. Going " into the country to take possession of it, his " chaise

" chaise broke down, near a gentleman's seat
 " in the village he was passing through. The
 " owner of which, being informed by his ser-
 " vants of the accident, came out upon
 " crutches, and finding by the bruises Mr.
 " Jesson had received in the fall, he was not
 " in a condition to prosecute his journey, with
 " great civility invited him to what accommo-
 " dation his house afforded. The young gen-
 " tleman, with suitable acknowledgments, ac-
 " cepted this hospitable offer, and was convey-
 " ed into an apartment, where a surgeon at-
 " tended him, who gave it as his opinion, that
 " it was not safe for him to remove for some
 " time, being apprehensive of an internal hurt,
 " which could not be repaired but by rest.
 " This account was not sufficient to deter his
 " patient from desiring a litter might be pro-
 " cured, and that he might be conveyed to his
 " own family ; saying, he did not chuse to be
 " troublesome in one where he was a stranger.
 " The gentleman of the house, no sooner was
 " informed of this, than having made enquiry
 " concerning his guest, of his servants, he pro-
 " tested he should not run such a risque, tell-
 " ing him, he was extremely glad of an op-
 " portunity of paying his respects to a son of
 " the worthy Sir Francis Jesson. In short,
 " the old gentleman was so pressing, that the
 " young one could not in good manners resist
 " his obliging importunities, and consented to
 " stay, 'till he was in a better condition to tra-
 " vel. Upon the old gentleman's quitting
 " the room, Mr. Jesson demanded of the sur-
 " geon

“ geon his name and quality? and was inform-
 “ ed his name was Towring, that he was a
 “ major, and had been in the army from his
 “ sixteenth year, but had resigned his commis-
 “ sion to his son some years, and resided
 “ wholly upon his estate in the country; that
 “ he was near ninety, and had an only daugh-
 “ ter, who being born in his old age, he was
 “ passionately fond of, and talked of giving
 “ her an handsome fortune, though as his
 “ estate was entailed upon this son, and he liv-
 “ ed up to the full extent of his income, no
 “ body imagined it would be in his power.
 “ This lady, the surgeon said, was at present
 “ gone to visit a friend some miles distant,
 “ but expected home every day. Our travel-
 “ ler was necessitated to keep his bed near a
 “ week, and his chamber much longer, in
 “ which time he experienced the utmost com-
 “ plisance from the major, and his servants,
 “ who were all very assiduous in their atten-
 “ dance. When he was able to sit up, the
 “ major was almost continually in his room,
 “ entertaining him with long and circumstan-
 “ tial details of the actions he had engaged in,
 “ and by his own account, there never was
 “ one of any consequence, from the battle of
 “ the Boyne, to those of Blenheim and Hoch-
 “ stedt, in which he had not performed won-
 “ derful atchievements. To these recitals, his
 “ guest gave more attention, than credit. And
 “ finding it in vain to shut his ears against the
 “ thundering reports of warlike expeditions,
 “ with which they were hourly assailed, he of-

“ ten

" ten closed his eyes, and by counterfeiting
 " sleep, sometimes escaped a skirmish or siege.
 " This sort of conversation grew at last so te-
 " dious, that he resolved as soon as it was pos-
 " sible to remove from it, and before he had
 " obtained the surgeon's permission, he made
 " an excursion from the chamber, where he
 " had been confined, to the parlour. But this
 " step was attended with an unhappy conse-
 " quence, for the sight and conversation, of
 " Miss Towing, who returned that day, ba-
 " nished all thoughts of a removal at present,
 " and inspired him with different sentiments.
 " She was, as I have heard him affirm, the
 " most charming object he ever beheld, and,
 " in the time he staid to perfect his recovery,
 " entirely captivated his heart. He soon in-
 " formed her of the conquest she had made,
 " and earnestly solicited her hand in marriage.
 " The lady, after a few denials made for form
 " sake, acknowledged she had nothing to ob-
 " ject against him, but his profession; declaring
 " if he had been of the military order, she
 " should prefer him to any gentleman who had
 " ever pretended to her. She so frequently
 " harped upon this theme, that he determined,
 " in order to render himself more agreeable to
 " her, to quit the study of the law, for that of
 " arms, and when he left the major's, purchas-
 " ed a commission; with this in his pocket, he
 " returned to her, she received this proof of
 " his affection, with much seeming satisfaction
 " and graciously condescended to promise him
 " her hand, as soon as he had the command of
 " a troop

“ a troop, or company, but objected to marry-
 “ ing a subaltern officer. Inspired with the
 “ thoughts of obtaining her favour, he was in-
 “ defatigable in studying and performing the
 “ duties of his new employment, she approv-
 “ ing him more and more in that capacity, he
 “ grew fond of it, and by earnest application,
 “ acquired a perfect knowledge in the theory
 “ of war. At the expiration of two years,
 “ when he commenced captain, he became
 “ very importunate with her, to make him
 “ happy; her father readily consented, having
 “ told him, that he could not part with a for-
 “ tune during his life, but at his decease he
 “ would leave all his personal estate to her;
 “ which the captain well knew amounted to
 “ little more than his furniture; however, he
 “ was so in love with the lady, and had re-
 “ ceived such endearing assurances of a recip-
 “ rocal regard from her, that he made not
 “ the least objection to the slenderneſs of her
 “ fortune, but offered her as large a jointure
 “ as his estate would afford, requiring nothing
 “ in return but her heart and hand. Whilst
 “ the necessary articles were drawing, he was
 “ summoned to attend his corps into Flanders,
 “ and Miss Towing insisted on deferring their
 “ marriage ’till his return; in vain did he use
 “ the most pathetick intreaties, to induce her
 “ to permit the performance of the ceremony,
 “ before he embarked; all he could obtain
 “ from her, was a solemn vow of constancy,
 “ with a promise to become his wife at the end
 “ of the campaign. They parted with mutual
 “ regret,

" regret, and for the first few months, she fa-
 " voured him with letters by every mail, con-
 " taining assurances of fidelity, and ardent
 " wishes for his safety; these proved a healing
 " cordial to him, in the dangers which his duty
 " and native magnanimity forced him into; he
 " behaved with great intrepidity at the battle
 " of Dettingen, and came off honoured with
 " scars and applause. On the army's retiring
 " into winter quarters, he obtained leave to
 " make an excursion into England, where he
 " arrived with all possible expedition; and
 " fraught with the pleasing hope of an endear-
 " ing reception from the fair one, in compli-
 " ance with whose desire, he had exposed him-
 " self to the dangers attending his profession,
 " he flew to her father's house, without giving
 " her any previous intelligence of his inten-
 " tions. He rode post, and never stopt but to
 " change his horses, from the hour he landed,
 " 'till he reached the major's seat; where in-
 " stead of meeting with the welcome his fond
 " heart expected, he was told by a servant,
 " (who never asked him to alight) that his
 " master was not at home, being gone a long
 " journey to attend his daughter to her hus-
 " band's house. This news put him into a
 " perfect delirium, he asked the fellow twenty
 " questions in a breath, raved at the major,
 " and acted like a man bereaved of his senses.
 " Whilst he was exclaiming in this manner,
 " the surgeon, who had attended him, when
 " he met with the accident that introduced
 " him to this family, rode up to the gate, and
 " finding

“ finding the condition his mind was in, (the
 “ cause of which he guessed) begged he would
 “ suffer him to wait upon him to the next vil-
 “ lage, and he would answer all his interroga-
 “ tories. The appearance and speech of this
 “ person brought him a little to himself, and
 “ he was prevailed upon to go with him to an
 “ inn two miles distant, never opening his lips
 “ all the way. Upon his dismounting, the
 “ surgeon, perceiving him to change counte-
 “ nance, thought proper to bleed him, whilst
 “ he made no resistance, but seemed to be in a
 “ state of insensibility, which alarming his
 “ companion, he caused him to be conveyed
 “ into a bed, and sat up with him all night,
 “ part of which he slept, and in the morning
 “ appeared more calm and composed, when
 “ he apologized to the surgeon for the trouble
 “ he had occasioned, and returned him thanks
 “ for his care. Then reminded him of the
 “ promise he had made, to oblige him with
 “ some information concerning the affair that
 “ caused his disorder. Upon which the sur-
 “ geon said, he was not ignorant of the nature
 “ of the engagement between him and Miss
 “ Towing; adding, you have at this time,
 “ given me a convincing proof of the strength
 “ of your passion for that ungrateful lady; and
 “ such a one, as a soul immersed in folly and
 “ vanity like her’s, never could deserve. I
 “ am very sensible this disappointment touches
 “ you nearly, but think her infidelity and in-
 “ gratitude must afford reflections of such a
 “ nature, as will, in time, induce you to ac-
 “ knowledge

" knowledge you had a fortunate escape." To this, the captain reply'd, " He was obliged
 " to him, for endeavouring to lessen his un-
 " easiness, but he was impatient to learn the
 " occasion of her revolt." " Meer avarice
 " and ambition, answered the surgeon." " You
 " must know, Sir, continued he, about a month
 " ago, Sir Peter Baggold, an old debauched
 " baronet, who has an immense estate, having
 " bury'd a fine young lady, who had been his
 " wife but four years, and by whom he had no
 " heir, came to visit the major, and before he
 " had been with him two days made love to
 " Miss Towing. His estate and title pleaded
 " so strongly in his favour, that he obtained
 " her consent, and in less than a week, she
 " commenced lady Baggold, and set out im-
 " mediately with him for his seat. I am cre-
 " dibly informed, the old major remained neu-
 " ter in the affair, and never attempted to
 " bias her inclinations on either side; and her
 " brother being abroad, cannot be supposed to
 " have influenced her, since he must be still a
 " stranger to her proceedings; that this act,
 " by which she has rendered herself unworthy
 " of your esteem, and drawn upon her the
 " censure of the honourable part of mankind,
 " appears to have been entirely her own free
 " choice." " The captain having obtained
 " this information, dismissed the surgeon with
 " many thanks, and an handsome gratuity for
 " his trouble, and returned with speed to Flan-
 " ders, where he hoped in the clamour of war,
 " to lose that which the ingratitude of his mis-

" trefs had caused in his breast. He signalized
 " himself by a remarkable bravery in every
 " action, whilst there, and on his return home,
 " was sent into the north against the rebels,
 " where he was so desperately wounded, that
 " his life was for some time despaired of. A
 " gentleman of fortune and humanity, who re-
 " sided in those parts, received him into his
 " house, and afforded him all the assistance in
 " his power; by the skill of the surgeon, and
 " his care, he once more regained the blessing
 " of health, and joined his regiment, which
 " had orders to remain in the north, after the
 " rebels were defeated." Mrs. Hill, being
 called away, by the wife of a button-maker,
 who had entered the shop, and was giving
 herself airs of importance, refusing to be served
 by the young woman, one of which she had
 sent, to " bid her mistress come and wait upon
 " her herself, if the woman was not above her
 " business." We must therefore, with Mr.
 Manly, put a stop to this narration, 'till that
 fine lady permitted Mrs. Hill to return.

CHAP.

C H A P. XII.

Gives an account of the colonel's lady.

UPON Mrs. Hill's return, Mr. Manly pursued his recital. ' Captain Jesson, (continued he) during his stay in the north, made frequent visits to the gentleman, from whom he had met with such friendly treatment in his illness, and often found there, a lady, whose good sense, and amiable behaviour, seemed to pronounce her qualified to make an agreeable companion and sincere friend; every time he had an opportunity of conversing with her, increased his esteem for her, and gave rise to a passion, which he had long been a stranger to, and which, from the infidelity of Miss Towing, he was unwilling to indulge, least he should expose himself to the like treatment. However, he saw so much to admire in her, that he could not resist the inclination he had to enquire more particularly after her, of his friend, who, one day, in reply to his questions, gave him her history, which, as near as I can remember, from the colonel's relation of it, was, as I shall give it, in the gentleman's own words. She was born and educated in London, where her father, being an Italian merchant in great repute, resided; and having only two daughters, it was supposed would give them large fortunes. The son of a wealthy citizen served an apprenticeship to him, and

“ made his addresses to her from her child-
 “ hood, with the mutual approbation of their
 “ parents, who encouraged the reciprocal af-
 “ fection they with pleasure saw subsisted be-
 “ tween them, and only advised them to wait
 “ ’till the young man was fixed in trade for
 “ himself, before they married. This the
 “ young couple prudently agreed to, and pas-
 “ sed their hours, when together, in forming
 “ schemes for their future happiness, and inter-
 “ changing vows of mutual love and constancy
 “ —During this harmonious intercourse, a
 “ gentleman of a good character, refined sense
 “ and immense fortune, became acquainted
 “ with the young lady, in a visit she made of
 “ some weeks to his sister, who had been her
 “ school-fellow, and being charmed with her
 “ accomplishments and person, made her an
 “ offer of marriage; but as soon as he reveal-
 “ ed his sentiments to her, she acquainted him
 “ with the engagement of her heart, and de-
 “ clared, no temptation could bribe her to a
 “ violation of her faith, so pledged; begging
 “ him to desist from his visits, least they should
 “ give uneasiness to the man, she thought her-
 “ self bound by honour, as well as inclination,
 “ to regard; and thinking a longer continu-
 “ ance with his sister, might render her more
 “ in the way of his importunities than she chose,
 “ she left a family which was otherwise ex-
 “ tremely agreeable to her. Some time after,
 “ this gentleman made his addresses to another
 “ lady, who became his wife. At this period,
 “ the young merchant lost his father, who left
 “ him

" him in the possession of a large share of
 " wealth and credit, and he said, he proposed
 " making his faithful Molly a partaker of it,
 " as soon as his affairs were settled; but while
 " they were adjusting, her father met with such
 " unexpected losses both at home and abroad,
 " as threatened him with bankruptcy, and he
 " died of a broken heart. In his illness, he
 " hourly lamented to his daughters, his inability
 " to provide for them, without injuring
 " his creditors. Upon which, they both begged
 " him to be easy, declaring, they had
 " much rather rely upon Providence, and their
 " own industry, for a future maintenance, than
 " acquire it by any act of injustice; and therefore
 " intreated him to make a will, and give
 " orders for the payment of his debts, and
 " that what surplus remained afterwards,
 " might be equally divided between them.
 " The old gentleman complied with their desire,
 " and they attended him with an exemplary regard
 " whilst he lived, and obeyed his will at his decease,
 " with so scrupulous an exactness, that no person
 " but themselves lost any thing by him; but they,
 " instead of ten thousand pounds a piece, which
 " was the least they had been taught to expect
 " in their father's prosperity, had now no more
 " than eight hundred pounds between them. However
 " perfectly satisfied that they had done their
 " duty, they were content with this pittance.
 " But it was far otherwise with Miss Molly's
 " lover, whose soul bore no affinity to her's,
 " and he condemned, instead of applauding,
 " her

“ her conduct, which he deemed a carelessness
 “ of the goods of fortune, and took occasion
 “ to inform her, that, as she had chosen to
 “ give away her father’s money, and had put
 “ it out of her power to bring such a fortune,
 “ as he could answer, he should remain her
 “ friend and wellwisher, but could never think
 “ of engaging in marriage with one, who
 “ could make no addition to his stock; and
 “ therefore, he thought it more prudent to
 “ decline her acquaintance, and leave her at
 “ liberty to accept any future offer. This in-
 “ telligence he communicated in a letter,
 “ which she received some weeks after her fa-
 “ ther’s funeral, at a time, when she was in
 “ hourly expectation of a consolatory visit
 “ from him. The agitations this base epistle
 “ caused in her mind, can only be imagined
 “ by those who have experienced such a case.
 “ However, being a woman of good sense, she
 “ forbore all violent exclamations against the
 “ ungenerous proceedings of the man, who
 “ had, for such a term of years, been the con-
 “ stant object of her affections, and chose ra-
 “ ther to endure a silent grief, that preyed in-
 “ wardly on her constitution, than to vent out-
 “ rageous complaints against the deceiver.
 “ She never returned any answer to this letter,
 “ but, as soon as their affairs were settled, her
 “ sister and she, retired into this neighbour-
 “ hood, where they boarded with a distant re-
 “ lation four years, and behaved with such
 “ propriety, as to gain the esteem of every per-
 “ son of sense and condition in the neighbour-
 “ hood.

" hood. About a year ago, my brother, who
 " has an easy fortune, married her sister ; since
 " which time, she has resided with him, and
 " never is the least inquisitive after her deser-
 " ter ; as she has recovered her health and
 " chearfulness, we are in hopes she may yet
 " meet with some happy man, who, sensible of
 " her merit, may endeavour to persuade her to
 " accept of a station more suitable to her de-
 " serts. The captain says, upon hearing this,
 " he made no scruple to confess, that he had
 " had an inclination to make his addressees to
 " her for some time, and said, the information
 " he had now received, and the similitude he
 " found their was in their fate, added to his
 " regard for her. He desired his friend to
 " mention the affair to the lady, who, after
 " about six months acquaintance, complied
 " with his request ; and has ever since been
 " the most grateful, tender and affectionate
 " wife ; upon his return from the north, he
 " sold out of the regiment he was in, and
 " bought into the guards."—Mrs. Hill and
 Miss Murrells having thanked Mr. Manly,
 for obliging them with this history, he bid
 them adieu, and the latter returned to her mis-
 tress.

CHAP.

C H A P. XIII.

Mr. Manly visits the colonel, and meets with one of his fellow-travellers.

NOT many days after Mr. Manly had held the conference with Miss Murrells, relating to Mr. Ellet, he went to Colonel Jeffon's who happened to be gone out upon business; Mrs. Jeffon hearing he was below, sent to desire his company 'till the colonel returned, which she said would be some time before dinner. Mr. Manly accepted her invitation, and took that opportunity to impart to her the account he had received of Mr. Ellet's proposals to Miss Murrells, and her determination to remain in their family, rather than accept so advantageous an offer. He related all the conversation that passed at the interview he had with her at Mrs. Hills; which had such an effect upon Mrs. Jeffon, that she told Mr. Manly since Miss Murrells preferred a continuance with her, from such grateful motives, she should no longer remain in the capacity she was in, but she would take another person to perform her office, and make her her companion for the future; saying, it was with reluctance, she had hitherto employed her as a servant; but now she had received such a proof of her gratitude and worth, she should desire her to remain with her, upon terms more suitable to her birth, and should be glad to introduce her into company, as the daughter of Mr. Murrells.

rells. To this kind speech he replied, " I do
 " not doubt, Madam, but you will experience
 " the utmost friendship from her, and meet
 " with such a return as your indulgence me-
 " rits; but I believe she is not desirous of
 " much acquaintance, and would esteem her-
 " self happy in being known for what she is to
 " you only." Mrs. Jeffon answered, " I have
 " too great a regard for her ease, to insist on
 " her entering into a way of life that is dis-
 " agreeable to her inclinations; but she shall
 " no longer be deemed my servant, if she will
 " accept of such a provision as may set her
 " upon a different footing; she is so good an
 " oeconomist, that a trifle will supply her with
 " cloaths, and other necessaries, to appear as a
 " gentlewoman; Mr. Jeffon, I am certain, will
 " approve of this scheme, and I shall account
 " to the servants, for the alteration in her
 " station, by informing them of her rank
 " which she had industriously concealed."

The colonel, at this instant coming into the
 room, was made acquainted with his lady's
 sentiments, and expressed great approbation of
 them; declaring, Miss Murrells should be,
 from that day, treated by them as the daughter
 of a gentleman. This subject being discussed,
 Mrs. Jeffon asked him, how he liked the fleet?
 He replied, with a smile, " I was sorry to find
 " any land officers in it, however, I have re-
 " leased one, who is to dine with us; I hope,
 " Sir, (turning to Mr. Manly) you will not
 " take it ill, if I permit a person from a prison
 " to sit at table with you; he was lately an
 " officer

" officer under my command, but being an
 " idle foolish coxcomb, has run himself into
 " scrapes; yet as his faults proceed rather from
 " a weak head, than a bad heart, I am desirous
 " of saving him from ruin if it be possible, and
 " hope, since he has suffered the shame and
 " punishment due to his folly, he may be per-
 " suaded, if not to be of use to the world, at
 " least to pass through it inoffensively." The
 Colonel was prevented from pursuing his ac-
 count of the prisoner, by his entrance into the
 room, and to the no small surprize of Mr.
 Manly, appeared to be his fellow-traveller
 Cannon; he had lost a great deal of that fero-
 city of aspect, which he had assumed in the
 stage-coach, and was grown very meagre and
 pale; the moment he perceived Mr. Manly he
 seemed confused, but that gentleman compassi-
 onating his distress, paid him much more re-
 spect than he really thought was his due, or
 then he would have done, had he met him in
 more prosperous circumstances. This beha-
 viour had such an effect upon the poor culprit,
 that the gloom upon his countenance began to
 vanish, and he regarded the humane Mr. Manly
 with a degree of veneration. After dinner,
 when the gentlemen were left to themselves,
 that gentleman asked him, where he had been
 quartered since he saw him? " Oh, Sir, replied
 " he, I have met with a confounded deal of
 " vexation since I had the honour to travel
 " with you; I dare say, you thought me an
 " impudent dog, for I was upon the high
 " ropes then, but misfortunes have taken me
 " down

" down, and I have been in limbo ; yet, as the
 " noble colonel has been so kind to stand my
 " friend, and release me, duce fetch me, if I
 " have not a better guard upon myself for the
 " time to come." " Pray, said Manly, what
 " occasioned your misfortunes ?" " Consum-
 " ed folly and pride, answered Cannon, I see
 " it now myself. But, if you will please to at-
 " tend to an account of my disappointments,
 " you may perceive, I have been more my own
 " enemy than any body's else ; for I never
 " committed murder, or robbed upon the high
 " way." Mr. Manly replied, " as you are so
 " obliging to offer it, I shall be very attentive
 " to your story." Cannon then acquainted
 him with those particulars which I reserve for
 another chapter.

C H A P. XIV.

Cannon makes a report.

" **Y**OU may remember, Sir, said Cannon
 " to Mr. Manly, I quitted the stage-
 " coach at Grantham, being horridly provok-
 " ed with the chattering old woman that tra-
 " velled with us. I could sit it no longer, for
 " you must think, gentlemen, it made a man
 " look confoundedly silly to be so exposed be-
 " fore ladies. It is true, I did redomontade a
 " little,

“ little, and mentioned a brother that I never
 “ had, but I thought there was no occasion to
 “ confess my father was a butcher, though it
 “ is certain that was his profession; but what
 “ then, I need not have been ashamed of it,
 “ for I have been told, the famous cardinal
 “ Woolstons was a butcher’s son.” Woolsey
 “ was, said Mr. Manly, and lord Cromwell’s
 “ a blacksmith’s.” “ Aye, Sir, replied Can-
 “ non, I thought Oliver’s father had been a
 “ gentleman; but that’s nothing to the pur-
 “ pose; I took post-horses from Grantham,
 “ and on my arrival in town, quartered myself
 “ in a lodging in the politest part of it; having
 “ obtained leave of my colonel to be absent
 “ from my regiment three months longer, I
 “ resolved to make the best use of that time,
 “ and endeavour to make sure of some lady of
 “ fortune, imagining, with my person and ad-
 “ dress, it would be no difficult matter to gain
 “ such a one. For some weeks, I made a
 “ fruitless search, when meeting an acquaint-
 “ tance at the tilt-yard coffee-house, he propo-
 “ sed to me a trip to the assembly at Rich-
 “ mond-wells, the monday following. I much
 “ approved the jaunt, and sent to my taylor,
 “ milliner, and peruke-maker, in order to
 “ equip myself for conquest against the day.
 “ I was so fortunate to dance with a lady, who
 “ was just escaped from her guardian’s clut-
 “ ches, and seemed a prize worthy my pursuit;
 “ I therefore determined to spare no cost or
 “ pains, in rendering myself agreeable to her,
 “ and made such a progress in our first inter-
 “ view,

" view, as to obtain her permission to visit her,
 " at her house in town. The first time I wait-
 " ed on her there, I made my appearance in a
 " rich suit of cloaths fire new, and a blue wig,
 " which I perceived, made an impresson upon
 " her heart; for she permitted me to gallant
 " her to several balls, and I constantly attend-
 " ed her to all routs; and as she was passion-
 " ately fond of cards, engaged in every party
 " where she was present; though I have no
 " judgment in play, and betted as high as any
 " person there; by this way of life, I ran so
 " deeply in debt, that my creditors began to
 " threaten me with arrests, which would infal-
 " libly have ruined my scheme, and being as I
 " thought cock-sure of her, though she had
 " made me no actual promise, I sold my com-
 " mission, and paid my debts. One day she
 " said in my hearing, nothing was so delight-
 " ful to her as a party of pleasure upon the
 " Thames, and lamented that she had not had
 " an opportunity of passing a day so agreeably
 " that summer. I immediately took the hint,
 " and proposed to her a scheme upon the wa-
 " ter, if she did not think the season too far
 " advanced; she replied, it would be vastly
 " pleasant, and she never feared cold, when she
 " was set upon any favourite diversion. To
 " oblige her with this, I bespoke an handsome
 " barge, ordered an elegant cold collation,
 " and engaged several eminent hands and
 " voices to regale us with musick; then I in-
 " vited a few select friends of her's to accom-
 " pany her on board, and we passed a joyous
 " day.

“ day. The following one, I waited upon her
 “ at her house, with a firm resolution not to
 “ leave her, till I had obtained a positive an-
 “ swer to my suit, and permission to attend
 “ her with a licence and parson; but when I
 “ came there, her servants told me, she was in
 “ bed, much indisposed, and they could not
 “ disturb her. In the afternoon, I went again,
 “ and was informed the lady was so ill, that a
 “ physician had been called in, who pronounc-
 “ ed her fever to be very dangerous; in short,
 “ after passing more than a week in anxiety
 “ and suspense, she remaining too bad to ad-
 “ mit of my visits, I found all my blooming
 “ hopes blasted by her death, which drove me
 “ almost to distraction. I had expended to
 “ my last hundred in this scheme, and how to
 “ retrieve my money, I knew not; and must
 “ confess, I was more than once tempted to
 “ take the road, but the dread of a halter de-
 “ terred me. A few days after my loss, I was
 “ washing my teeth out of my dining-room
 “ window, when I observed a well-dressed lady
 “ going into her chair, from a house opposite,
 “ she cast her eyes towards me, and regarded
 “ me so attentively, and with such a bewitch-
 “ ing tenderness, as made me conjecture she
 “ was struck with my figure; possessed with
 “ this notion, I ran down stairs, and pursued
 “ the chair, which stopt at a handsome house
 “ in a street near the temple; upon quitting
 “ the chair, the lady set her foot awry, and fell
 “ down upon the step, before she had gained
 “ the entry; perceiving this, I flew to her as-
 “ sistance,

" sistance, and she accepted my hand to raise
 " her up, and conduct her into the house,
 " when looking around her, in the greatest
 " confusion, she asked pardon for the trouble
 " she had given me, protesting she would
 " never have suffered it, had she not mistaken
 " me for a gentleman of her acquaintance ; to
 " this speech I returned a gallant answer, de-
 " claring, I thought myself extremely fortunate
 " to be in the way of doing the least service
 " to a lady of her beauty, and begged to know
 " if she found any pain from the accident.
 " She replied, her ankle she feared was sprain-
 " ed, and she should send for a surgeon imme-
 " diately. I then took my leave of her, re-
 " questing the honour of waiting upon her in
 " the afternoon, to enquire after her hurt ; she
 " answered, in an obliging manner, if my
 " business called me that way, I should be wel-
 " come to a dish of tea, as her brother was to
 " be with her, otherwise she never admitted
 " the visits of a stranger. I did not much like
 " the mention of a brother, thinking he might
 " prove a burr in my way, for I conjectured
 " she was single, and determined to make my
 " addresses to her. When I quitted her lodg-
 " ings, I went into a Haberdasher's shop just
 " by, and purchased half a dozen pack of
 " cards, in order to gain some intelligence
 " concerning her ; the woman in the shop said,
 " she knew no more of her than what her
 " maid had told her, which was, that her mis-
 " tress was the widow of an old country gen-
 " tleman, who had married her for love two

“ years before, and dying, left her, besides a
 “ jointure of seven hundred pounds a year,
 “ some thousands in money, but the heir at
 “ law, disputed part of her jointure with her,
 “ and she came up to town to prove her right,
 “ and took lodgings in this street, in order to
 “ consult her lawyer, who had given her to
 “ understand, she could not be molested by the
 “ pretensions of the heir, and she proposed go-
 “ ing down into the country very soon, being
 “ tired of the town, in which she had very few
 “ acquaintance. Upon my asking this wo-
 “ man, if she had observed any gentleman
 “ visit her? she answered, no, and she heard
 “ her maid say, she did not chuse to keep com-
 “ pany with any body but the lawyer and her
 “ brother. This information made me vain
 “ enough to imagine the widow must be
 “ charmed with my person, or she would not
 “ have given me leave to attend her; and not-
 “ withstanding all the trouble and expence I
 “ had been at in my amour with Miss Aldrich,
 “ (that was the name of the lady that died)
 “ I resolved to prosecute this. Accordingly,
 “ I returned to her lodgings at six in the even-
 “ ing, and met with a gracious reception from
 “ the lady, who complained of no other incon-
 “ venience from her sprain, than being oblig-
 “ ed to keep her room, and disappoint her bro-
 “ ther, who expected she would have gone
 “ with him into the country next day. This
 “ gentleman who was present, and seemed to
 “ be a man of importance, said, he was very
 “ sorry she could not accompany him, for her
 “ tenants

“ tenants were quite impatient to have their
 “ leases signed. This report sounded very
 “ pleasing to my ears, and I was wishing some
 “ accident would happen to remove him out
 “ of the room, for I was afraid of giving vent
 “ to my compliments before him, when a ser-
 “ vant entered and informed him, that one of
 “ the waiters from George’s, desired to speak
 “ with him ; he stepped out, but before I could
 “ pluck up the courage to speak, returned,
 “ to ask my pardon for his absence, which he
 “ said was occasioned by a summons he had
 “ received from his lawyer, but he hoped he
 “ should be able to dispatch him in half an
 “ hour, and to find me with his sister at his
 “ return ; I made a low bow, and he his exit,
 “ which afforded me an opportunity of making
 “ a profusion of soft speeches to the lady, that
 “ I had been studying, tending to inform her
 “ of the power her charms had over my heart,
 “ that had been insensible to that hour, and if
 “ she left town so suddenly as she proposed, I
 “ must inevitably follow her, or die upon the
 “ spot. She seemed to hearken to me with
 “ attention, and after I had exhausted my
 “ common set of phrases on the subject, an-
 “ swered, I know, Sir, it is usual for our sex
 “ to stand upon forms, and to keep your’s in
 “ suspense a great while, and that I commit a
 “ trespass on decorum, in not treating with
 “ scorn the fine harangue you have made ; but
 “ Sir, I am too honest to deceive you, by pre-
 “ tending an indifference which I have not ;
 “ and will frankly confess, I have frequently
 “ seen

“ seen you from a house opposite to your lodg-
 “ ings, and have watched every opportunity of
 “ making an acquaintance with you, but none
 “ offered till this morning; it would be pru-
 “ dent to deny that the sight of you occasioned
 “ my stumble, and furnished me with a pre-
 “ tence to evade my brother’s pressing intrea-
 “ ties of leaving town; had you not been so
 “ gallant to have followed me, I had formed
 “ a scheme to have acquainted you with my
 “ sentiments as soon as he was gone, for hav-
 “ ing more years and experience than myself,
 “ he pretends to rather too much authority
 “ over me, and expects to be consulted upon
 “ every occasion. Here she was interrupted
 “ by her maid, who said there was a messenger
 “ from George’s below, that came for some
 “ writings that her brother had forgot; upon
 “ which, she stepped into a closet, and returned
 “ with a parcel of parchments, which she de-
 “ livered to the maid, saying, what trouble do
 “ these sort of affairs involve one in; but my
 “ comfort is, this is the last I shall have with
 “ them.” “ I, you must think, was in rap-
 “ tures at this beginning, and feared to be led
 “ such a dance, as I was with the former lady,
 “ by delays, did not leave her, till I gained her
 “ consent to be mine, the day after her bro-
 “ ther’s removal; she earnestly intreated me to
 “ conceal our design from him, till it should
 “ be too late for his prevention, and told me
 “ to avoid his suspicion, it was necessary for
 “ me to decamp before he returned from the
 “ coffee-house. In obedience to her com-
 “ mands,

“mands, after extorting a solemn promise
 “from her to be mine on the thursday, I left
 “her; she presented me with a pretty ring at
 “parting, and I took the measure of her finger
 “in order to procure the matrimonial pledge.”
 Before Mr. Cannon could proceed further in
 his story, Mrs. Jeffson sent to invite the gen-
 tlemen to tea; accordingly, they attended the
 ladies, and entered into a more general con-
 versation, till they retired into the apartment
 they had left, when he went on with his tale,
 as the reader may perceive, if he chuses to
 peruse chapter the 15th.

C H A P. XV.

Cannon's story continued.

THE gentlemen having bid adieu to the
 ladies, were very importunate with Can-
 non to acquaint them with what followed his
 engagement with the widow; he replied, “I
 “was so delighted with this extraordinary
 “turn in my affairs, that after passing a sleep-
 “less night, I went early in the morning to
 “visit my dear widow, and was admitted to
 “breakfast with her; but to my great con-
 “cern, and as I thought, I could perceive to
 “her’s, found her brother with her; he looked
 “dogged shy, and she tipping me a wink, I
 “with-

“ withdrew in half an hour ; as I was going
 “ down stairs, her maid slipped a billet into my
 “ hand, the contents of which informed me,
 “ that her brother was to set out for the coun-
 “ try, as soon as he had dined, and requesting
 “ my company in the evening. I obeyed her
 “ orders, and imagining by all her behaviour,
 “ she was too deeply smitten to retract her
 “ promise, I thought an appearance of candour
 “ could not lessen me in her esteem, and there-
 “ fore, frankly told her, that though I had
 “ kept up the appearance of a man of condi-
 “ tion since I had been in town, my fortune
 “ was not so considerable as she might expect.
 “ She looked a good deal disconcerted at this
 “ news, and after a long pause, during which
 “ I was upon the wrack, and could have bit
 “ my tongue off, she replied ; indeed, Mr.
 “ Cannon, I had conceived a different opinion
 “ of you from the report of your landlord ;
 “ but to prove I have no mercenary views,
 “ what you have so generously told me has
 “ not in the least lessened you in my opinion ;
 “ your commission intitles you to the respect
 “ due to a gentleman, and my friends cannot
 “ condemn me for marrying a captain, though
 “ he should have no other support than his
 “ pay. This speech put me into so much
 “ confusion, that I wondered she did not take
 “ notice of it ; at last I recollected myself, and
 “ thought to confess I had parted with that,
 “ might in all probability deprive me of her
 “ favour ; I therefore put on as gay an air as I
 “ could assume, and said, if she was so divinely
 “ good,

good, as to take a soldier of fortune, I would
 " endeavour to make myself worthy of her
 " finding. She was not displeased with my
 " proposal; I pressed her to marry me imme-
 " diately; she, with a charming smile, said,
 " she had no objection against complying
 " with my request, provided the ceremony
 " might be privately performed. I proposed
 " Keith's chapel, she approved of it, and the
 " next day we were married there; according
 " to her desire, I left my own lodgings, and
 " removed my cloaths, &c. to her's, where I
 " remained a week incog. but after that time
 " was relaps'd, she told me, she feared com-
 " plaisance to her had made me neglect my
 " acquaintance, and begged I would visit
 " them as usual; I made some handsome com-
 " pliments by way of reply, and said her com-
 " pany was more agreeable to me than any in
 " the universe. She seemed vastly pleased
 " with this, but insisted on my shewing myself
 " at the places I used to frequent, least I should
 " draw the gallery of the town upon me, for
 " parting with my liberty, which she said I
 " should soon perceive she had no design to
 " deprive me of. She repeated this so often,
 " that I thought it ill-manners to contradict
 " her at present, and indeed was not a little
 " pleased with her consent to proclaim my
 " good fortune. I therefore threw myself in
 " the way of as many of my acquaintance as I
 " could meet with, and claimed their congra-
 " tulations. At my return from this excur-
 " sion, the woman in whose house we lodged,
 " told

“ told me, my wife and her maid had left her
 “ house, telling her, that I would defray the
 “ expences she had been at, which she inform-
 “ ed me, amounted to near forty pound. This
 “ intelligence startled me excessively, I thought
 “ my wife was be-devil’d to take such a freak
 “ into her head, and had not forty shillings to
 “ answer this demand ; whilst I was puzzling
 “ my brain to account for the oddness of her
 “ proceedings, it came into my head, that she
 “ had received some affront from the people
 “ of the house, in my absence, and did not
 “ chuse, as I was a military gentleman, to
 “ mention it to me, ’till we had left the place,
 “ for fear of consequences ; I was the more in-
 “ clined to think so, upon going into our
 “ apartment, out of which I found she had
 “ taken my swords, and removed all that be-
 “ longed to us ; supposing therefore, she would
 “ inform me in a few hours, where she chose
 “ I should wait upon her, I told the woman,
 “ I should not answer her saucy demand ’till I
 “ heard from Mrs. Cannon.” If y u wait for
 “ that, returned she, you may stay ’till dooms-
 “ day, but I can tell you, I am not to be so
 “ put off, I have been deceived by the jade
 “ your wife, as you call her, but you shall not
 “ pass so. This language raised my indigna-
 “ tion to that pitch, that it was lucky for her
 “ my wife had removed all offensive weapons
 “ out of my way. A scolding-bout ensued
 “ between my landlady and I, in which she
 “ told me such a story, as I shall never forget
 “ to my dying day, and I will relate it in her
 “ own

" own words, to give you an idea of the sirago,
 " here, says she, is a fine piece of work truly!
 " I have lived in good repute hitherto to a fine
 " purpose! to be brought at last to harbour
 " rogues and strumpets; at this, I stopt her,
 " to tell her there was law against scandalum
 " magnatum; Law me no laws, answered she
 " if you come to that, there is law against
 " strumpets; I am sure I never had any such
 " cattle under my roof before; and here she
 " told me a story about this, and that, and
 " t'other, saying she was a widow gentlewo-
 " man of great fortune, or she should never
 " have set foot here, I can tell her; and to be
 " sure, as she offered me double the price I
 " ever had for my lodgings, I might well
 " think she was a virtuous lady, and had great
 " riches; moreover, she pretended she was de-
 " sirous of them to be near her counsellor,
 " she had much need of a counsellor indeed;
 " and so, because I liked her looks, I dis-
 " appointed a sober gentleman, that has had
 " 'em for years, and was forced to tell a fib
 " about the matter, which I would not have
 " done for the world, if I had not thought it
 " was worth while to oblige her; he being so
 " desirous of having his old lodgings, I could
 " not have refused him, if I had not said she
 " was a niece of my landlord's, and I dared
 " not deny her, because she had taken a fancy
 " to them; but to see what all my good na-
 " ture comes to!—'twas but on monday one
 " of my neighbours came to tell me, she won-
 " dered one that had lived in good name and
 " fame, and had had the very best of ladies

“ and gentlemen for lodgers, should underva-
 “ lue myself so, as to harbour a woman of the
 “ town; I huffed my neighbour for having
 “ such a thought; and just as she went away,
 “ you brought madam in when she hurt her
 “ foot, I said nothing to her of what I had
 “ heard, but she went out again at ten o’clock
 “ that night, and I had her watched, and
 “ where should she go in, but at a wicked
 “ house; and I set up ’till she came home
 “ about four in the morning, when she made
 “ such an appearance as I shall never forget
 “ whilst I have breath to draw, for her fine
 “ laced cap was torn to shivers, and the sleeves
 “ of her gown half off, and out of the gathers,
 “ the whole of it looked as if it had been drag-
 “ ged through the kennel; but she told me it
 “ was only stained by a bowl of punch, which
 “ a lady in company had thrown at her; when
 “ I told her the sin of going to such a house,
 “ and driving such a trade, and desired her to
 “ pay me what she owed me, and march off;
 “ she fell a crying, and begged me to let her
 “ stay one week longer, and hold my tongue,
 “ for she was going to be married to a great
 “ gentleman, who must be obliged to pay me,
 “ saying, it would be to no purpose to confine
 “ her and ruin her match, as she had not a six-
 “ penny piece in the world. I am naturally
 “ pittyful, and as she had contrived a way for
 “ me to be paid, it would not have been
 “ charitable in me to have exposed her for
 “ what she was. At this, continued Cannon,
 “ I lost all patience, and swore pretty heartily
 “ at my landlady for what she called charity,
 “ which

" which so exasperated her, especially as I
 " vowed I would not pay her a shilling, that
 " she produced a constable, and, in short, not
 " being able to get bail, I was committed to
 " the fleet-prison, where I was very near starv-
 " ing, and knew not who to apply to. In this
 " existence, I verily believe I should have
 " tucked myself up if a lucky thought had
 " not popt into my head of writing to this
 " noble gentleman (bowing to the colonel);
 " he, I thank his honour, on receipt of my
 " letter, came to my assistance, and generously
 " laid down the sum which released me, I
 " wish I may ever be able to repay him."
 " We will talk of that another time," answer-
 " ed the colonel, " but at present, now you are
 " at liberty, I should be glad to know what
 " you propose to do for a livelihood; have
 " you no cloaths, by the sale of which you
 " might raise a small sum?" " Sir, replied
 " Cannon, I had as many as cost me above
 " two hundred pounds, but the lady I married
 " thought proper to take them with her; and
 " where to find her I know not, neither do I
 " think it prudent to make any enquiry after
 " her, for fear she should be tempted, as she
 " has acted the widow with such success, to
 " administer some potion to me that might
 " give her a lawful title to that name, and a
 " pension, for I never told her I had sold out."
 " You are grown very considerate, said Man-
 " ly, but from her leaving you in the manner
 " she did, I fancy she had received information
 " concerning that affair, and found there was
 " nothing

“ nothing more to be expected from you, after
 “ plundering your lodgings. However, in-
 “ quiry ought to be made after the wretch.—
 “ But what, as the colonel says, do you pro-
 “ pose to do? what employment would best
 “ suit your capacity? Sir, answered Cannon,
 “ I can follow none, but that of a gentleman.”
 “ At this, Mr. Manly and the colonel shewed
 “ tokens of surprize and displeasure; and after
 “ a pause, the colonel said, Look’ee, Cannon,
 “ I think I have acted the part of a friend by
 “ you, and no doubt, by the assistance I have
 “ afforded you, I shall incur the censure of
 “ many, who are acquainted with your impru-
 “ dent conduct, and have more sensible heads
 “ than hearts; yet the motive that urged me
 “ to act as I have done by you is of such a na-
 “ ture, as to acquit me in the opinion of all
 “ persons of goodness and humanity; it is en-
 “ tirely at your own option to return the obli-
 “ gation, by a conduct more consonant to re-
 “ ligion and reason, than that you have hither-
 “ to pursued, which will be deemed by me, an
 “ ample compensation for what I have done,
 “ I am still ready to do for you, provided you
 “ will cast off the coxcomb, and exert yourself
 “ in some employment more suitable to your
 “ birth and education, than that which your
 “ extravagance has thrown you out of. As to
 “ the title of gentleman, you cannot be so void
 “ of understanding, as to pretend any claim to
 “ it, any more than to the commission you
 “ have disposed of, and therefore I am a little
 “ offended at hearing you assume it.” “ Your
 “ honour

" honour mistakes me, replied Cannon, I know
 " I am a poor low-lived dog, yet as I have so
 " long been used to the title of gentleman,
 " you cannot wonder I should be loth to part
 " with it; what I meant was, as some of my
 " acquaintance, who now trail a pike, were
 " originally the valets of men of quality, and
 " perhaps no better born than myself, I might
 " still preserve my gentility by acquiring such
 " a post as they have quitted; it would be
 " some satisfaction to be called my Lord such-
 " a-one's gentleman; and I am sure I am as
 " well qualified to dispose of powder and ball
 " at a toilette, as ever I was in a campaign;
 " indeed I am a connerfwear in dress, having
 " made it my chief study; and therefore, Sir,
 " if you, or that noble gentleman, Mr. Manly,
 " would do me the honour to recommend me
 " to such a post, I would endeavour to dis-
 " charge my duty in the service." This pro-
 posal met with the approbation of both the
 gentlemen, and they promised to inquire out
 such a place for him. In the mean time, Mr.
 Manly engaged to defray the expence of a pri-
 vate lodging for him, and as a further encou-
 ragement to prosecute this scheme, presented
 him with five guineas, promising to assist him,
 as long as he deserved his protection. Cannon
 returned a multitude of thanks to his benefac-
 tors, and was taken by Mr. Manly into his
 coach, and fixed in a lodging till he could
 meet with a suitable place for a continuance.

C H A P. XVI.

Contains a word of news.

MISS Murrells had been above a week on the footing Mrs. Jeffson thought she deserved, when Mrs. Hill brought her a packet that came by the York post, addressed to her at the Milliner's; upon opening it, she found a letter from the rector of the parish in which her old nurse resided, to inform her of the death of honest Master Adams, and that his wife survived him but a few weeks, in which "time she made a will, and appointed this clergyman her executor; having no relation either of her own or her husband's; she had left to her dear child, as she called Miss Murrells, between two and three hundred pounds. This epistle further informed her, "that just "before Mrs. Adams died, she had been "alarmed by a visit she received from a gentleman, that she suspected was employed by "Lord Courtall to sift out the present resistance of Miss Murrells, but the good old "woman refused to give any account of her, "though he offered ten guineas to be made "acquainted with her place of abode." It concluded with many hearty wishes for her health and welfare, and pious exhortations to be upon her guard, and to reject the allurements of Lord Courtall.

Miss Murrells could not peruse this account
with

with dry eyes, and although she was not insensible of the favour of Providence, which had in a manner, so unexpected, made a provision for her against want, she found as much to grieve at, as to rejoice at, in the contents; the loss of her foster-mother, whom she regarded as a parent, and was really more indebted to, than to her natural parents, gave her an unfeigned concern; and the intimation that she was still exposed to the machinations of that detested lord, very much added to her sorrow. She communicated the northern intelligence to the colonel and his lady, who after congratulating her on account of the legacy which the former insisted upon advancing from that day, proceeded to administer consolation, by giving her the strongest assurances of friendship and protection. So good an effect had these endearing promises, that she acknowledged her greatest concern now arose from apprehensions of Lord Courtall's putting some vile scheme in execution, in order to deprive her of their protection. Upon this, the colonel advised her to receive no visits from any stranger, till he had first seen them; and gave orders to his servant, if any persons inquired for Miss Murrells, not to admit them into the house in his absence.

The reader will not think this caution unnecessary, perhaps, when we inform him, that that very evening, when the colonel was from home, a gentleman came to his house, and demanded to be introduced to Miss Murrells.

The

The servant, in obedience to the commands of the colonel, replied, his master was not at home, and in his absence nobody could be admitted to see her. The stranger, not satisfied with this answer, insisted upon seeing her; when the fellow fearing he would force his way in, claped the door to, and bolted it, than ran to acquaint his lady with what he had done. Miss Murrells desired a description of the person; the fellow answered he was a tall man; but as he held a handkerchief before his face, he could not discern that; but his glove being off he observed his hand was bound up with a black ribbon.—It is an observation of an author who saw as far into human nature as any mortal ever did, that, “Trifles, light as air, are to the jealous, confirmation, strong as proofs of holy writ.” Which may, I believe, with equal propriety be applied to suspicion of all kinds; at least it appears so in this case; for that trifling incident of the ribbon, was as strong a confirmation of the suspicion Miss Murrells had entertained, that Macshane had laid some fresh scheme against her peace, as the fatal handkerchief was to the jealousy of Othello. However, the Moor was too late undeceived, but as to this lady, who had no less reason for her surmise, the case may be different. Let that be as it will, we must at present leave her to her reflections, and take a trip to Hampstead.

CHAP.

Justice Moody arrives at Hampstead.

MR. Manly had been so engaged for some time about an affair that more immediately concerned himself, which had carried him some miles out of town, that he had no time to visit at the colonel's since the day in which he met Cannon; and the day after he returned to town, receiving an invitation from Mr. Moody, who was now at Hampstead, he deferred attending the colonel, till he had paid his compliments to the justice at his sister's. He found the old gentleman indisposed, sitting in an easy chair, and after the ceremony of salutation was over, asked the cause of his disorder. The justice replied, "Oh Mr. Manly! "I shall never have no opinion of London, "nor of no place within twenty miles on't." "Why so?" said Manly. "Why you shall "hear, if I have not reason for what I say, "continued Moody; We got here yesterday "by dinner, for I set out the day before to "spare my cattle, the off-mare being a foal; "so I had been cramped up so long in the "chariot, that after smoaking my pipe between "six and seven o'clock, I went to fetch a walk "towards London, I happened on a man who "was walking the same way, and we entered "into discourse in a civil manner concerning "politicks, which I thought he understood "very well, for he chimed in with me, till we
" were

" were got about half a mile, he then changed
 " the discourse to thieves, and asked me if I
 " wa'nt afraid of being robbed, saying, he
 " could not but own he was, for he had a
 " charge about him; nay, said I, I had no
 " thought of any such thing, but since you say
 " so much, you had better turn back, and
 " tarry all night in the town; indeed, I have
 " not a deal to lose, but I should not care to
 " part with my watch and a few pounds, that
 " I have in my purse; so said I, if you chuse
 " to go on, you may, for my part I'll make
 " the best of my way to my sister's, so I wished
 " him a good walk, and turned about; upon
 " this, he claps fast hold of my collar, and
 " pulling out a pistol, swore he would blow
 " my brains out, if I did not deliver up my
 " purse and my watch; just at that very mo-
 " ment, afore I could get them out, a gentle-
 " man, and his man came riding by, at sight
 " of them I shrieked thieves, whereupon the
 " highwayman knocked me down, and took to
 " his heels, the gentleman sent his man after
 " him, and came and helpt me up, when peo-
 " ple coming by, he told them the case, and
 " they carried me to the flask, for I was so
 " stounded with my fall, I could not help my-
 " self; when I come to understand where I was
 " I thanked the stranger, and asked him to
 " take part of a bottle with me, but he said he
 " could only stay to see me safe. I thought I
 " might have done him some hurt, for as he
 " was getting up, I fell upon his arm; but he
 " told me he was glad he come in my way,
 and

" and did not matter that. The people at the
 " flask brought me to sister's in a coach, and
 " I have had a kind of a fever ever since ; just
 " now, they brought me a gold seal that was
 " found in the room where the stranger carried
 " me, but seeing it was none of mine, I would
 " not have kept it, if sister had not thought by
 " the coat of arms, I might find out the right
 " owner, which she conceits must be the gen-
 " tleman that took care on me." Very likely,
 " answered Manly, but no doubt he will send
 " to inquire after you, and then you may
 " learn who he is ;" he sent this very morning,
 " replied the justice, but my sister being gone
 " to chapel, the fool of a maid never thought
 " to ask his name." The gentleman made
 such complaints of pain in his head and bones,
 that Mr. Manly advised him to bleed ; he said
 he was blooded, as soon as he came from the
 flask. Mr. Manly then recommended a phy-
 sician ; but he replied, " No, a doctor will cost
 " more than he's worth ; however, if you know
 " an honest 'pothecary, that will not put his
 " whole shop into my guts, I will send for
 " him." " Mr. Manly thinking this a fa-
 " vourable opportunity for the introduction of
 " Mr. Lee, answered," " if you are willing to
 " trust to my Apothecary, he shall be sent to."
 The justice consented, and he dispatched a ser-
 vant of his to fetch Mr. Lee ; Miss Moody
 was apprized of his coming, and advised not
 to make her appearance, till her father and
 lover had had a conference, least it should be
 thought a concerted scheme between them.
 " Mr.

Mr. Lee was received by the lady of the house, who acquainted him with the state of the case, and what patient he was to attend; then conducted him to the chamber, where the justice was in bed, Mr. Manly sitting by him. Mr. Lee, though under some confusion, behaved very properly, and was so successful in his applications, that in a few days, during which Mr. Manly staid in the house, he was perfectly recovered. Being greatly pleased with the modesty and assiduity of the Apothecary, as soon as he was well enough to hold conversation with him, he demanded his name? Mr. Manly answered, "suppose it should be Lee." To which, the justice replied, "No, no, you would never bring that fellow to me; besides, I know he would have given me another guise portion; therefore, young man, I desire to know what I must call you." "My name, Sir, answered he, is Lee." What a shame! cries Moody, his eyes sparkling with rage, "are you the rascal that pretended to court my daughter?" "I am indeed, Sir," replied he, the man who would with your permission, be glad to devote my life to the service of that amiable young lady, who has long since subdued my heart." "Subdued a fiddle-slick, answered Moody, I wonder you can have the impudence to own such a thing to my face; do you think, you jack-anapes, I am such an old fool, as not to know you want to rob me of my land?—Get out of my sight this moment, and bless yourself you come off with a whole skin, which

" which I promise you you should not, if I had
 " but one of my crutches by me, and the
 " highwayman had not put me out of sorts ;
 " but now I see who set him on, 'tis like you
 " purposed he should murder me out of hand,
 " but I'll have the laa on you if it be to be had ;
 " I'll send all over London but I'll find the
 " villain that knocked me down, and I'll for-
 " give him if he'll peach you." " Sir, cried
 " Lee, upon my knees I beg.—Beg, you
 " puppy ! I will have laa," answered the en-
 " raged old gentleman. Mr. Manly interposed,
 " Let me beg of you, Mr. Moody, said he,
 " that you would hear what I have to offer."
 " Offer what you will, returned the justice, I
 " wo'nt take it. No, no, no bribery or cor-
 " ruption for me ! the laa I say shall take it's
 " course ; I'll have him to size." I wish, said
 " Manly, your unreasonable passion had taken
 " it's course, and then, Sir, you must be sensi-
 " ble, the language you have bestowed upon
 " this gentleman, is neither becoming you to
 " give, or him to receive ; and though the
 " great respect he bears to the father of Miss
 " Moody, will not permit him to resent it, I
 " must take the liberty to call it unwarrantable
 " and unjust." " I could not have thought,
 " Squire Manly, answered the justice, after all
 " the kindness you pretended to have for me,
 " you would go and take the part of a rake-
 " shamed fellow that has done me an injury,
 " as to bewitch my child ; for I make no ques-
 " tion that he has given her love-portions,
 " like Cranstoun, to make her hate me, and
 Vol. II. L " be

“ be disobedient; ’twa’nt handsome in such a
 “ squire as you, let me tell you, to bring him
 “ here; if you were not a parliament-man I
 “ should speak more free, but seeing you have
 “ more land than I, I say ’twa’nt handsome to
 “ encourage undutifulness.” Mr. Lee, obser-
 “ ving Mr. Manly was a little displeased at
 “ this speech once more address’d the justice,
 “ I am extremely sorry, Sir, said he, I am so
 “ unfortunate as to have incurred your displea-
 “ sure, since I solemnly protest, if there be
 “ faith in man, I am not only innocent of all
 “ the base intentions, with which you charge
 “ me, but should desire no greater earthly hap-
 “ piness, than to obtain your consent to my
 “ proposals; and to contribute by every means
 “ in my power, towards your ease and satisfac-
 “ tion; so far from having any mercenary
 “ views, I should desire nothing more, than
 “ your blessing with your deserving daughter.
 “ I appeal to this gentleman, turning to Mr.
 “ Manly, if these were not my sentiments, be-
 “ fore he introduced me to you;—and must so
 “ far clear him from the suspicion of encourag-
 “ ing disobedience, as to assure you, Sir, it was
 “ not, till he was well convinced of my in-
 “ tegrity, as to what I have asserted, that he
 “ was prevail’d with to become my advocate;
 “ neither has he permitted me to have any in-
 “ tercourse with the young lady, since he was
 “ acquainted with the affair; nor will I, dur-
 “ ing your life, attempt gaining her upon
 “ terms inconsistent with her duty to you; I
 “ own it was great presumption in me to aspire

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" at a bliss so far above my desert; but then,
 " suffer me to say, if she was to stand upon
 " her merit, I know not that man who could
 " have the confidence to pretend to her; yet
 " since she had the humility to wave that in
 " my favour, and condescended to own a re-
 " gard for me, I flattered myself with the
 " hopes, that my earnest endeavours to oblige
 " you, backed with the pleadings of so wise
 " and worthy a gentleman as Mr. Manly,
 " would one time or other have induced you
 " to honour me with your approbation; will
 " you permit me, Sir, to lay the state of my
 " circumstances before you?" The justice
 kept frowning during this speech, he gave it
 in the following words. "No, no, I don't
 " want to know how many gallipots and drugs
 " you have got, not I; do but out of my sight
 " and send in your bill, dy'e hear? you need
 " not bring it yourself, for I am resolved you
 " shall never have my daughter, and so get
 " you gone." Mr. Lee was about to with-
 draw, with all the tokens of dejection in his
 countenance, when Mr. Manly stopped him.
 " Sir, says he, I cannot consent to your leaving
 " the house in such apparent concern. You
 " have met with a rougher treatment than I
 " expected from Mr. Moody, and your be-
 " haviour upon the occasion has been such, as
 " to raise in me a desire to be allied to so much
 " merit; you find Mr. Moody is inflexibly
 " bent to oppose your union with his daugh-
 " ter, who is as absolutely determined never
 " to be your's, without his consent; to what

“ purpose therefore should you indulge an un-
 “ availing passion?” What do you mean, dear
 “ Sir?” said Lee. “ I mean, answered Manly,
 “ to make a proposition to you before Mr.
 “ Moody, which I think he will approve.—
 “ I have a niece who has seen you, and is per-
 “ fectly acquainted with your character.—She
 “ is the daughter of a gentleman, and may
 “ have a very good fortune from him; from
 “ me, she shall certainly have two hundred
 “ pounds a year upon the day of marriage,
 “ provided you can approve her; and I here
 “ declare before Mr. Moody, I will at my
 “ death give you at least ten thousand pound,
 “ provided it is a match; she is a very amiable
 “ woman I assure you, and the counterpart of
 “ Miss Moody in every respect, that if you can
 “ get the better of your disappointment here,
 “ I will engage you will be accepted there.”
 —It would be difficult to describe the astonish-
 ment that appeared in the countenances of the
 justice and Apothecary, at this proposition; the
 former having dashed his pipe into the fire,
 cried, “ I never heard the like;—why do’nt
 “ you spit in your hand, and hold fast, you
 “ will never have such another offer, if the
 “ squire do’nt jest.” Mr. Lee, addressing Mr.
 Manly, said, “ I am so amazed, Sir, at what
 “ you here uttered in my favour, that if I was
 “ not too well acquainted with the humanity
 “ of your disposition, to imagine you would,
 “ in the present distressed situation of my
 “ mind, banter me, I should be inclined to
 “ think you were not in earnest.” I am in
 earnest

earnest I assure you, " returned Mr. Manly,
 " but if you require any other testimony than
 " my word, I appeal to the mistress of this
 " house, who is intimately acquainted with
 " my niece, and has heard her more than once,
 " express a particular regard for your character
 " and person." " However surprizing your
 " kind offer, Sir, appears to me, answer'd Lee,
 " I am too well acquainted with your veracity
 " and regard to my welfare, to require any
 " evidence than your own; yet, desperate, as
 " my hopes are as to obtain the dear creature
 " who engrosses my heart, I must decline the
 " honour you propose; and am fully deter-
 " mined, since I cannot succeed in the only
 " affair of this nature, that I ever engaged in,
 " to preserve the constancy I have vowed to
 " Miss Moody, and will never do any other
 " woman so much injustice, as to solicit her
 " hand, whilst my heart is in the possession of
 " another; and I cannot help saying, your
 " entertaining such a thought of me, is an ag-
 " gravation of my present concern." Well,
 " Mr. Lee, replied Manly, we will talk more
 " of this matter some other time." Oh, never,
 " Sir! I beg you would never mention it
 " more," answered the Apothecary, who with
 a bow to the justice left the room. Mr. Manly
 attended him out, and before he mounted his
 horse, desired to have a private conference with
 him, which he would gladly have declined, but
 feared a refusal would savour of ingratitude,

the least appearance of which he detested ; and therefore accompanied him into a parlour, where Miss Moody's aunt was sitting alone, that young lady being always sent out of the way at the approach of Mr. Lee.

B O O K. IV.

Contains many discoveries which we hope will not be disagreeable to the Reader.

C H A P. I.

Relates a conversation that passed between the justice and his sister.

WHEN the gentlemen entered the parlour, the lady would have withdrawn, had not Mr. Manly insisted upon her staying, and before her, renewed the proposal he had made in the other room ; she joined with him, in representing the little probability there was of ever altering her brother's resolution, or of her niece's becoming his, so long as he disapproved him. She then harangued on the beauty and accomplishments of the lady Mr. Manly's

Manly's relation, and the advantages that would accrue from such a match ; but without making the least impression upon him, who thanked them for their good wishes, but protested, he never could be brought to think of any other woman, but his dear Miss Moody. Finding him so resolute, they acknowledged such an unshaken constancy deserved to be rewarded with the attainment of his wishes ; and promised, if he would not attempt to see Miss Moody, or to persuade her to a breach of the promise she had made her father, they would still continue to be his advocates, and make use of every argument to vanquish the obstinacy of the old gentleman. With these comfortable assurances, he and Mr. Manly set out for town, and the lady went to her brother, who appeared very much out of humour with Mr. Manly, and not a little displeased with the deference he paid to Mr. Lee, whom he abused in very unbecoming terms. When he had given vent to his passion, his sister said every thing in his defence that a sensible and honest heart could dictate, and acquainted the justice with what " passed in her hearing, adding, " if you could " bestow ever so large a fortune upon my " niece, he more than deserves it ; and, pray " brother, if you reflect coolly, what objection " can you have to her matching with a gentleman of his character, whose profession " brings him in a larger income than your " estate ; besides, he is in present possession of " 5000 pounds, and in all probability, will " have much more?" The conclusion of this speech

speech had some effect upon the person to whom it was addressed, who replied, " If I had
 " chose him myself, I should not mind it if he
 " was not worth a brass farthing; but here,
 " to have a girl go of her own head, and fall
 " in love without my bidding her, is what pro-
 " vokes me; besides, business an't like land;
 " —Folks an't always sick;—mayhap we may
 " have very healthy times, except indeed, the
 " wickedness of they that have gone and made
 " an act of parliament to change the sun and
 " moon, should bring down a judgment upon
 " the nation; then indeed we may expect sick-
 " ness, and fire, and swords!" " What do
 " you mean, brother?" returned the lady,
 " You know my meaning well enough, replied
 " Moody, and so does Old England; here
 " they have set up a new stile that nobody
 " knows how to get over; 'tis like indeed my
 " Lord Gregory should no better than King
 " Julian; I have read about it, sister, and I
 " know we are in a wrong box; nay, did not
 " the Glastenbury thorn tell us as much; but
 " we must be forsooth wiser than our successors
 " that went before us." " This affair, says
 " the lady, is foreign to our purpose; so if you
 " please, we will return to the subject we were
 " upon, and since we cannot alter the stile,
 " leave it as it stands." " Well then, answer-
 " ed he, I say, sister Severn, you are mistaken
 " in the money that Lee has got; I have
 " heard Parson Doughty say over and over
 " again that he had but 1500 pound." " No
 " more he had at that time, answered she, but
 " his

" his father is since dead, who left him more
 " than double that sum, and it is feared his
 " elder brother is far gone in a consumption,
 " that no one knows what he may be worth in
 " the end." " Why did not you tell me this?
 " said the justice, I knew nothing about it,
 " not I; mayhap, if I had, I might have had
 " another thought." " No matter what your
 " thoughts are now, replied the lady, since you
 " could treat him as you have done, you do
 " not deserve such a son-in-law; and I assure
 " you, I will do all that lies in my power to
 " forward his match with Mr. Manly's niece."
 Left any of my readers should call the lady's
 veracity in question in this speech, we who are
 of her privy-council affirm, however strange
 it may appear, there was nothing she more de-
 sired than to bring about that match, and to
 punish her brother's obstinacy, who she per-
 ceived began to decline towards Mr. Lee.
 " Why, sister! said the old gentleman, you
 " women are so hasty!—Why should you de-
 " sire to vex my poor girl to the heart?" In
 " complaisance to you, replied she, you could
 " not have behaved to her as you have done,
 " if you did not design to make her unhappy."
 " I design to make her unhappy, said he, with
 " an oath, I wonder you an't afraid the roof
 " should fall upon you for telling such a known
 " lye; you know I only desired to make her
 " dutiful, she has teized every vein in my
 " heart, so that I should be glad to get rid of
 " her; I don't want her, for I always ordered
 " every thing in my family, I never trusted
 " her

“ her with nothing, not I, so she does me no
 “ good.” That is your own fault, answered
 “ the lady, my niece had years and prudence
 “ sufficient to enable her to take care of your
 “ affairs; but I hope, brother, you are not
 “ such a Turk, as to imagine you have a right
 “ to enslave a rational creature, because Pro-
 “ vidence has given you some authority over
 “ her.” Authority! “ repeated the justice,
 “ sure she is my own, and I may do what I
 “ please with her as well as with my goods and
 “ chattels; but I am no more a Turk, sister
 “ Severn, than yourself; no, nor a Papish, nor
 “ Presbyterian; I never pretended to put her
 “ to any slavery, though I had the power, she
 “ never washed a rag in her life, or turned the
 “ churn, let her say if I did.” “ I don’t ima-
 “ gine you did, replied she, but an unreason-
 “ able constraint upon the mind, and inclina-
 “ tions, is a slavery more hard to be endured
 “ than what you have mentioned.” “ I never
 “ strained her mind, said he, nor stinted her,
 “ she had always as much victuals and drink
 “ as she desired, I never denied her nothing
 “ that she asked for.” “ I do not know how
 “ you could, answered the lady, for you have
 “ kept her always in awe of you to make any
 “ request, and consequently, you could have
 “ no opportunity to refuse her. Yet you well
 “ knew which way her inclinations tended.
 “ And I am certain, except they exactly tallied
 “ with your humour, you never, in any one
 “ instance, complied with them; gives me a
 “ right to expostulate with you on the absur-
 “ dity

" dity of your behaviour to the most deserving
 " child a parent was ever bless'd with. Have
 " you done scolding, sister Severn? cried the
 " justice, because if you have, I have a word
 " to say." I am ready to hear you, replied
 she. " Why then I must tell you, you have
 " run me harder than ever I was run in my
 " life; I would not have suffered my wife to
 " have said so much, I promise you, about the
 " girl; but you are in your own house, and
 " upon your own foundation, so you will talk
 " as you like; but if you had not watered a
 " nettle, I would have told you, now I hear
 " the Potheary has got something, and you
 " seem set upon him, to oblige you, if he
 " would stand to his word, and take Rose with
 " nothing at present, he should have her if he
 " would." " And can you be so ungenerous,
 " brother, said she, as to take such an advan-
 " tage of his passion for your daughter, when
 " you can so well afford to give her a fortune?
 " such a procedure as his, merits a more suit-
 " able return; and I should think, if he can
 " withstand Mr. Manly's offer, you ought to
 " advance something answerable to his for-
 " tune." " Well, well, I'll consider of it, re-
 " turned he, but I must take care of myself
 " you know, I am but 65; and I don't see
 " why I may not live twenty or thirty year
 " longer; I am come of a long liv'd genera-
 " tion, my grandfather was upwards of ninety,
 " and if my father had not been taken off sud-
 " denly in his 78th year, by a fever, he might
 " have lived as long; so that I can't part with
 " much,

“ much, for fear I should want it; do you
 “ think Mr. Manly is in earnest concerning
 “ his kinswoman?” “ I am certain he is, an-
 “ swered the lady; and I believe he will make
 “ her a much larger fortune than he told Mr.
 “ Lee; however, if the parties are not agree-
 “ able to each other, notwithstanding he is so
 “ desirous of the match, he will never persuade
 “ him or her to act contrary to their inclina-
 “ tions.” The justice and his sister carried
 “ on the conversation much longer upon this
 “ subject; and the former appeared now, as
 “ desirous of forming an alliance with the
 “ Apothecary, as he had formerly been the re-
 “ verse; and was quite out of humour with
 “ the lady, because she seemed to incline to
 “ prevent it. Had her design been to have
 “ forwarded her niece’s match, she could not
 “ have taken a more effectual method, than to
 “ show the justice she was indifferent about the
 “ matter; but she went further, and told him,
 “ his consent now would be deemed no obliga-
 “ tion to her, since he shewed such a disrespect
 “ to Mr. Lee, who was her friend, and deserv-
 “ ing of the lady Mr. Manly designed for
 “ him, and she hoped, by conversing with
 “ Miss Moody, to bring her to be of the same
 “ sentiment.” “ Aye, but one comfort is,
 “ answered he, Rose will never think as you
 “ do now, without it be in contradiction to
 “ me, and I desire you would not go and put
 “ none of your new-fangled whims into her
 “ head, to set her against him now I am will-
 “ ing with it. Miss Moody’s return, with
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lady at whose house she had passed the time that Mr. Lee was at her aunt's, stopped the justice's harangue, and he behaved to his daughter the ensuing evening, with as much good nature as he was capable of.

C H A P. II.

Mr. Manly meets the ladies whose story he had related.

THE reader may by this time be glad to return to town; we will therefore desire him to accompany us to Colonel Jeffon's, where we shall be sure to find Miss Murrels, as her apprehensions of Macshane had prevented her from stirring out of the house, ever since the report of the man with the bandage on his wrist. Here Mr. Manly attended her, to give her an account of the transactions at Hampstead, and found her in company with Mrs. Jeffon and two other ladies her visitants; one of them he thought he had seen before, but could not recollect in what place, 'till the lady of the house, calling her name Auger, congratulated her on an accession of fortune. Upon this, he asked her if he had not seen her once at the good vicar's, where he was confined by illness? being answered in the affirmative, he inquired after Mrs. Goldson, and was informed the other stranger was that very lady. After

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some civilities between them, he perceived by the conversation that passed, that Mrs. Goldson's journey to town, was occasioned by a legacy that was left her by a relation of her mother's who died in the West-Indies, and which was to be transmitted to her by an old gentleman that was just arrived from Jamaica. Being unacquainted with the proper method of transacting such affairs, she had applied to the colonel, who was well versed in the law, for his opinion, which he readily gave her, and said, if she approved it, he would appoint a meeting between her and the old gentleman, at his house, any day she would fix upon. This affair being thus settled, the two ladies returned to their lodgings and the conversation turned upon their history, which as we have related before, we do not think it necessary to repeat. Mrs. Jeffson being asked by Mr. Manly how long she had been acquainted with them? replied, "From my childhood; Miss Auger's father and mine were neighbours, when he lived in town, and there was a great intimacy between our families; when she went to reside with her aunt, I passed some time with her there, and from thence commenced my acquaintance with Mrs. Goldson. The wretch her brother dying six months ago intestate, his whole fortune devolved to her, which occasioned my congratulations." After some further discourse concerning them, the colonel informed Mr. Manly, that he had fixed Cannon in a nobleman's service. And Miss Murrells acquainted him with the intelligence she had received

received from the North, and the alarm given by an inquiry made after her a few days before. He told her he was not surpris'd at her apprehensions, but could not think Lord Courtall would at this time dare to proceed in so open a manner, being credibly informed, there was a treaty of marriage on foot between him and Lady Fanny Snarler, which the report of such an affair must inevitably put an end to; and his lordship's fortune was at so low an ebb, that it was improbable he should run the hazard of forfeiting so considerable a one as her's by such a step: however, as it was impossible for a rational being to account for the actions of those whose vices had usurped the power of reason, he could not but applaud her caution. Upon leaving this family, he called in at a Bookseller's to inquire for the works of that ingenious and learned * divine, who having with great candour and judgment proved the errors of Protestants dissenting from the national Church, had lately published an accurate and pious treatise to explode those of the Romish communion; where he met with Mr. Doughty. The gentlemen having greeted Mr. Manly, informed the clergyman of the accident that befel Justice Moody since he left the country. In the course of this recital, mentioning the seal that was found at the flask, Mr. Doughty said, he knew by that incident the gentleman to whom the justice was obliged; adding if you will favour me with your company to-morrow evening at my lodgings, I will introduce

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him

* Mr. White.

him to you. Mr. Manly accepted the invitation, but the shop filling, they thought proper to break off their conference; and he proceeded to his house, where he found a letter from Mrs. Hill, requesting the favour of his company, in order to consult with him upon an affair of some importance; but as we think this business is rather too prolix to be transacted in this chapter, we must refer the reader to the next for an account of it.

C H A P. III.

Gives an account of business upon which Mr. Manly was summoned.

MR. Manly who delighted in nothing more than contributing to the happiness of his fellow creatures, was always ready with his purse and advice, to assist any person of merit, who sought to him for redress of any grievance, in his power to remove; neither did his benevolence want to be called upon, since he frequently afforded relief unsolicited; and notwithstanding his rank and fortune, condescended to behave to his inferiors according to what is called the golden, but might with equal propriety be stiled, the christian rule, to which he so strictly adhered, as to think himself as much obliged to attend the appointment of a decayed old gentlewoman, who earned her bread behind a counter, as any man of professed gallantry, could, to obey the assignation of a friend's

friend's wife, or daughter; or a gentleman of nominal honour to accept an invitation given in polite terms, to enter upon a sad eternity through a sluice of blood. In short no challenge was ever more readily returned by a personal appearance, than Mrs. Hill's request; we must, therefore, wait upon Mr. Manly to her house; which he no sooner entered than he demanded the occasion upon which he was summoned? she reply'd, her daughter Peggy, had an offer of marriage, from a gentleman, with whom he had some acquaintance, and she should be much obliged to him for his sentiments upon the affair: she said, he introduced himself to her by a present he brought her from her brother, that his name was Hardy, and by his account, he had a pretty fortune; that his father, living in the neighbourhood of Mr. Moody, at whose house he told her he had met Mr. Manly, induced her to take the liberty of requesting his company, in order to gain further intelligence concerning him; to this Mr. Manly answered, "From the short acquaintance I have had with Mr. Hardy, it cannot be supposed, I should be able to pronounce positively as to his character; but I am well assured, he has not deceived you in the account of his fortune, and as far as I can see, if Miss Hill approves him, I do not know where she can do better." At the conclusion of this speech, the door opened, and the sailor appeared, who, the moment he discerned Mr. Manly, cry'd, "Mees! I can never go a courting, but I am sure to fall in with

“ you, but howsever, I hope you an’t bound
 “ for the same land, for tho’ I was willing to
 “ yield up a gally, that was richer laden, I de-
 “ sire you would keep clear of the charming
 “ Peggy, since d’ye see, she is the prize I am in
 “ chase of; and I won’t be put back by father,
 “ in seeing I am my own master.”

Mr. Manly, having assured him, he should
 be no obstacle to his proceedings, entered into
 a discourse with him upon the subject of matri-
 mony, and after bestowing some deserved en-
 comiums upon the object of his affections, ask-
 ed him if his father was acquainted with his
 intentions? he answer’d, “ Yes, Yes, he knows
 “ what I am about, for tho’ he made a hurri-
 “ cane yonder, when I sheered off from the
 “ young woman as he made up to for me, an
 “ putten me in a passion, yet he shan’t have it
 “ to say that I go upon a secret expedition, so
 “ I sent’en a packet to let’en know which
 “ way I was steering. Mayhap, he won’t like
 “ on’t, because Peggy han’t so many yellow
 “ boys, as to’ther young woman; but seeing I
 “ have got enough, and don’t need to go to
 “ ’en for more, I see no reason why I should
 “ not do as I see fitting: the young woman as
 “ I have set my mind on, is a jolly handsome
 “ young woman, and I like her, and she likes
 “ me, so that d’ye see, ’tis a folly for him to
 “ stand out against the wind. I can’t pretend
 “ to say my face is so well to look at as some
 “ of your landsmen are, but then ’tis weather
 “ proof, and won’t change no more than my
 “ heart, which is as sound as a roach, and what

“ I

" I want in beauty I'll make up in honesty ;
 " for an she once has me, I'll be as constant
 " as the needle to the pole. She shall live as
 " handsome as any captain's wife in the com-
 " pany, though I am but a mate, I have
 " wherewithal to maintain her on shore, and
 " do'nt mean to set sail any more, unless,
 " she should cross me ; and as to father, as I
 " said afore, he has nothing to do with me ;
 " besides, she is as good as I, and her brother
 " lives like a king, with his slaves and blacka-
 " moors, and is as hearty and honest a lad as
 " any in the factory." Mr. Manly, finding
 nothing to disapprove in Tim's proposition,
 gave it as his opinion, if the old gentleman had
 no other objection against Miss Hill, but the
 slenderness of her fortune, and the young folks
 thought they could be happy with each other,
 her mother had no reason to withhold her con-
 sent. Tim thanked him for speaking a good
 word for him, and presented him with a to-
 bacco-stopper, made of the leg of an Indian
 deer, which was accepted with the same good
 will with which it was offered. In return, Mr
 Manly desired he might present Miss Peggy to
 him at the altar. This matter being adjusted
 to the satisfaction of all parties, Mrs Hill told
 Mr. Manly, she was a good deal concerned at
 some words that passed in her shop, between
 two gentlemen sometime ago ; but which she,
 never heard of 'till lately. " I was not at
 " home continued she, and my daughter was
 " engaged with a lady above stairs, so there
 " was only two of my young women in the way.
 " They

" They tell me one of these gentlemen came
 " in and asked for gloves, and before he was fit-
 " ted the other entered and desired to look at
 " Dresden ruffles; this last demanded of the
 " girls that served him, if Miss Murrells did
 " not live there? She, having a caution from
 " me, never to return a satisfactory answer
 " to such a question, refused to give him any
 " information concerning her, tho' he used
 " many entreaties;" which the person who
 " was chusing the gloves overhearing, said, with
 " an oath, " You are quite right, my dear, not
 " to own any acquaintance with Bell Murrells
 " for rep's sake?" Why so? returned the other,
 " Does her conduct deserve such a censure?"
 " You can know but little of her, reply'd the
 " first comer, to put such a question: but tho'
 " the old fellow has kept her so privately, we
 " may soon expect to have her upon the town."
 " Fanny said, at this speech, she was very
 " near transgressing my orders, by acquainting
 " them with the place of her residence, and de-
 " fending her reputation. But it coming into
 " her head that this might be contrived between
 " the gentlemen, as a list to find her out, pre-
 " vented her from replying. The moment
 " they quitted the shop, she ordered a porter
 " who plies hereabouts, to dogg them. He
 " returned and told her, he saw them both go
 " in at the Bedford Head together, which
 " seems to be a confirmation of her suspicion.
 " This affair was a secret to me, 'till yesterday
 " a stop of coaches happened before my shop,
 " when I observed a whispering between the
 " girls

" girls, whose eyes were directed to a chariot
 " in which sat a gentleman, that frequently
 " cast his eyes this way, and appeared so very
 " particular in his glances, that I concluded he
 " was one of those gallant youths, who take
 " every opportunity of ogling, and saying soft
 " things in order to gain the hearts of poor
 " girls, their inferiors, with no other view
 " than to divert themselves at the expence of
 " their reputation. Such being my opinion
 " of his behaviour, I insisted upon their in-
 " forming me, what acquaintance they had
 " with the gentleman in that chariot, and the
 " occasion of their close whispers? Upon
 " which, they told me what I have related to
 " you concerning the enquiry made after Miss
 " Murrells, and that the person in the chariot
 " was one of those gentlemen. I know not how
 " to tell her a story that conveys such a shock-
 " ing insinuation, and which nothing but the
 " most inveterate malice could invent, yet I
 " think she ought to be upon her guard." "I
 " am extremely concerned, answered Mr.
 " Manly, at this affair; which I make no
 " doubt was a scheme concerted between that
 " unworthy nobleman, and his vicious agents,
 " to asperse virtue, that was not to be subdued
 " by all his artifices. If she was not already
 " extremely cautious of avoiding all places,
 " where there is any probability of meeting
 " with those wretches; I should take some op-
 " portunity of hinting it to her, but as she is,
 " I think it would be unkind to interrupt her
 " ease, by such a disagreeable information."

Mr.

Mr. Manly being obliged to return to Hampstead, bid farewell to Mrs. Hill, and set out for that place.

C H A P. IV.

Contains the sentiments of justice Moody upon various matters.

UPON Mr. Manly's arrival at Hampstead, he was made acquainted by the justice's sister, with the alteration she perceived in the old gentleman's sentiments, with regard to the apothecary, and desired by her to resume the topic that evening. Before he entered into conversation with the justice, he privately informed Miss Moody of all that had passed in the interview between her lover and father; and assured her, though he was really in earnest in the proposal he made to Mr. Lee concerning his niece, as he had given her so deserved a preference to a woman of that fortune, and had shewn such a sincere and disinterested attachment to her, he would continue to enforce his suit to her father; and if she would be content to trust to his management in the affair, he was in hopes to settle it according to her desire; she with great modesty returned him thanks, and promised to be guided by him. As the justice never mentioned Lee before his daughter, Mr. Manly waited 'till she retired after

after supper, before he resumed the topick. Whilst he was debating with himself how he should introduce it, the justice taking his pipe from his mouth, and discharging with great deliberation the smoak, he had been for some time extracting, entered upon it first, by saying to him, " I wish I had not forbid Lee to bring his bill, for now I could have talked with him ; if I had known the whosebud had got so much money, I should not have been so much against him, but I was always afraid of London cheats ; pray do you know how his brother does ? " " Not likely to live, returned Manly : indeed ! cry'd Moody, 'tis much he should not tell how matters were ; he could not be such a fool as to suspect I would part with Rose to one that had not wherewithal to maintain her like a gentlewoman. If I mistake not, answered Manly, he offered to lay the state of his affairs before you, but you " ——— Here the old gentleman interrupted him, " Now I remember me, he did, but I was not well enough to hold discourse with him then, when will he be here again ? " " As you made such a positive declaration in his disfavour, replied Mr. Manly, he will hardly give you the compunction of a second interview upon that occasion. " " Why ! answered the justice, I tell you I have a mind to see him ! he won't give me no complexion : when he was here I did not know the right of matters, but now since you desire it, and sister Severn desires it, mayhap, I might agree to give up the

“ the girl, with an hundred a year, to qualify
 “ him, if he would settle all he is worth upon
 “ her.” Upon this Mr. Manly told him, if
 he really meant what he said, he believed Mr.
 Lee would be easily recalled, but at present he
 was gone into the country to visit his brother,
 with a heavy heart. “ What need his brother’s
 “ sickness disturb him ?” said Moody, “ if he
 “ was to lose any thing by him, ’twould be a
 “ reason for sorrow ; I always think your par-
 “ sons, and lawyers, and doctors wives, and
 “ such like, have cause to grieve when their
 “ husbands die, because the money goes away,
 “ but instead of that, if this young man should
 “ take it in his head to pop off, here’s an e-
 “ state coming to the pothecary, to make him
 “ a ’squire.” “ If it would make him a lord,
 “ reply’d Manly, he would be concerned at
 “ the event, that must render him a possessor
 “ of it : these brothers have had the tenderest
 “ affections for each other from their infancy.
 “ Would you, sir, be willing to lose Miss
 “ Moody, though by her death you would be
 “ deprived of no part of your fortune ?” “ No,
 “ No, Mr. Manly, answered he, I should not
 “ like on’t, but that’s another case ; if this
 “ man goes, he can be spared, there is one to
 “ inherit his father’s substance ; besides, a
 “ dead sorrow is better than a living one, no
 “ doubt he lives in pain, therefore there can be
 “ no hurt to wish him out of it.” “ Suppose,
 “ said Manly, you should be in exquisite tor-
 “ ture in your next fit of the gout, would you
 “ think yourself obliged to your daughter, for
 “ wishing

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“wishing it removed by death?” “That’s another thing, answered Moody: No! if I thought she was such an undutiful baggage as to wish such a wicked wish, I would cut her off with a shilling, for she knows if I was in ever such pain, I never desire to shorten my days; no, Mr. Manly! I never had such a wicked thought if I was ever so out of humour.” Mr. Manly, thinking it to no purpose to carry on an argument with so partial an opponent, dropt the subject, and acquainting the justice with the assignation he had made with Mr. Doughty, begged him to trust the seal in his hands. Which the old gentleman readily consented to, and they retired to rest.

C H A P. V.

A Canterbury tale is told.

THE reader, we doubt not, will be no less pleased than Mr. Manly, to bid adieu to the justice, in order to take a view of the transactions at Colonel Jeffon’s, at whose house Mrs. Goldson met Mr. Hinsum (the gentleman that paid her her legacy) on the day appointed. He was about seventy years of age, a venerable sensible old man, and his conversation was so agreeable to the Colonel, that when Mrs. Goldson was about to depart, he begged Mr.

Hinsum would stay and pass the evening with him; Mrs. Jesson and Miss Murrells being gone with a nephew of the Colonel's to Eaton, whither he was prevented by Mrs. Goldson's appointment from attending them. The old gentleman accepted the invitation, and having given the Colonel a satisfactory account of the present state of Jamaica, was asked by him, how long he had been absent from his native country? he reply'd, " More than fifty years; " near thirty of which I have been settled in " the West-Indies, and never was two months " at a time in Old England since I was sixteen, " for at that age I was thrown upon the world " to shift for myself. At my first setting out, " I might be thought unfortunate, but in the " end, I have great reason to own myself the " reverse, since I am at present worth more " thousands than I ever had single pounds " from any friend or relation in the world; " and I can safely say, tho' I had so little to " begin with, I never knew the want of money " in the whole course of my life." " You " must have had a very extraordinary one then. " I am certain, Sir, return'd the Colonel; and " if you would oblige me with a detail of it, I " should acknowledge it as a great favour." " With all my heart, colonel, reply'd the old " gentleman, if you can have the patience to " attend to an old man's Canterbury tale; for " in that city I drew my first breath. My fa- " ther was a substantial clothier, and fell in " love with the daughter of a gentleman, " greatly his superior in birth, who boasted " that

" that his ancestors were deemed gentry, be-
 " fore they opposed the Conqueror, whereas
 " the Hinfums were a race of yeomen. Not-
 " withstanding this disparity in point of ex-
 " traction, he was unfortunately successful, I
 " say unfortunately, for from the time my mo-
 " ther consented to be his, I may date the rise
 " of his misfortunes. She disoblighed her pa-
 " rents so much by this step, that they never
 " could be prevailed with to see her, or to af-
 " ford her a shilling towards her maintenance.
 " As it was a match of inclination on both
 " sides, they did not immediately perceive the
 " inconveniencies attending it; but before
 " three years were elapsed, my father was made
 " sensible that his partner was by no means
 " suited to the tasks of a prudent wife, a tender
 " mother, or a provident mistress of such a
 " family as was committed to her care. She
 " had been accustomed to a different way of
 " living, a luxurious table,—a retinue of ser-
 " vants,—a delicateness of apparel,—and to
 " pass her hours in a round of expensive
 " amusements, inconsistent with the circum-
 " stances of her husband, and ill-suited to the
 " station of life which she had chose to fix in.
 " My father, who was doatingly fond of her,
 " being continually reminded of his obliga-
 " tions to her, who had condescended to ac-
 " cept of him, though so much her inferior,
 " humoured her in all her whims, 'till he be-
 " came the jest of her neighbourhood, and
 " had brought himself to the verge of bank-
 " ruptcy; she insisting upon his family being

“ put upon a footing with that she had quitted
 “ an equal provision for the table,—a number
 “ of servants, and dress suitable to her birth
 “ must be procured; or he was upbraided with
 “ ingratitude, to a lady who had done him the
 “ honour of becoming the wife, of a sneaking
 “ tradesman, when she might have continued
 “ in grandeur at the seat of her ancestors. She
 “ brought him a child every year, and they
 “ must be nursed in the house, and proper
 “ persons hired to attend them, since it could
 “ not be supposed a lady of her delicacy,
 “ would condescend to such mean offices as
 “ waiting upon brats; and least they should
 “ offend the ears of her, and her polite ac-
 “ quaintance, an elegant nursery was erected
 “ at a great expence, and a convenient dis-
 “ tance from the house, whither she would
 “ deign to retire for half an hour once in a
 “ month, to see if any of them bore a resem-
 “ blance to her relations; and which ever ap-
 “ peared to have stole a feature from the Hin-
 “ fums, was sure to be treated as a noxious
 “ animal, and forbid to be brought into her
 “ presence. Whether it was owing to the
 “ carelessness of the mercenary wretches to
 “ whose care my brothers and sisters were en-
 “ trusted, or that it pleased providence to take
 “ them away from the evil that ensued, by a
 “ natural death; it does not become me to de-
 “ termine, but certain it is, none of the eleven
 “ confined to this nursery, but myself, attain-
 “ ed to their fourth year. My father, with a
 “ composure deserving blame, complied with
 “ these

" these enormities, and seemed so infatuated,
 " as not to perceive the dissipation of his sub-
 " stance, 'till he was roused by the sorrow my
 " mother's death occasioned, which was
 " thought to be precipitated by over fatiguing
 " herself at a ball, when she was with child ; a
 " miscarriage being the consequence, of which
 " she never recovered. His concern was
 " greatly enhanced by the clamour of his cre-
 " ditors, and not being able to answer their
 " demands, he was committed to prison, where
 " he ended his days, in six months after his
 " wife. I had the good fortune, from my en-
 " tering into my seventh year, to be a particu-
 " lar favourite of the school-master to whose
 " care I was at that age consigned, in order to
 " qualify me for an university education, my
 " father intended me for one of the faculties.
 " This good master of mine took uncommon
 " pains with me, and though he never could
 " obtain the least gratuity for his trouble, was
 " indefatigable in his endeavours towards the
 " cultivation of my mind ; I was with him,
 " and between fifteen and sixteen when I lost
 " my father ; as he had a numerous family of
 " his own to provide for, he lamented that his
 " power fell short of his will, in giving me
 " more than a scholastick education, however,
 " what he could he did ; he apply'd to my mo-
 " ther's father in my behalf, and in the most
 " pathetick terms represented my case, en-
 " treating him to be at some expence towards
 " the prosecution of my studies. The old
 " gentleman, with much persuation, consented

“ to see me, and by his order, I was removed
 “ to his house for a month or two, that he
 “ might, he said, observe my disposition, whe-
 “ ther I was deserving of his regard. A bro-
 “ ther of my mother’s, his only son, then lived
 “ with him, and had so great an influence up-
 “ on him, as to direct most of his actions; I,
 “ hearing this, esteemed myself happy, that he
 “ made no objection to my being received
 “ into his house, but alas! I knew not to what
 “ end this seeming kindness tended. When I
 “ had been with my grandfather three weeks,
 “ and he began to take notice of me, a captain
 “ of a ship, which then lay at Deptford, came
 “ to visit my uncle, and gave him and I an in-
 “ vitation to spend a day on board his ship;
 “ accordingly we went, and I was much pleas-
 “ ed with the captain, who was a Guinea
 “ trader, and dealt in slaves; in the evening
 “ when my uncle was about to return, he told
 “ me my horse was taken lame, and therefore
 “ I must stay where I was ’till the next day,
 “ when he should send another for me. This
 “ was spoken whilst the captain was gone upon
 “ deck to give some orders to his crew; and
 “ at his return, he wished them a good voyage
 “ telling him, he hoped his nephew would be-
 “ have as he ought, and not be troublesome.
 “ I, who had not the least suspicion he meant
 “ more than that I was to pass the night in his
 “ cabin, saw him quit the ship without any
 “ concern. I passed the night with the cap-
 “ tain, and was greatly surprized in the morn-
 “ ing to find the ship under sail, and as I was
 “ informed

" informed some leagues from the Kentish
 " coast; being vastly uneasy, the captain told
 " me that I was his servant, he having pur-
 " chased me of my uncle; but if I behaved as
 " I ought, I should have no reason to com-
 " plain, for he liked my looks, and would be
 " a friend to me. At first I exclaimed loudly
 " against the treachery of my uncle, who had
 " forced me into such a way of life, but finding
 " my captain was very lenient in his behaviour
 " and reflecting that if my uncle could be so
 " base, as to remove me from my grandfather
 " in this manner, he would doubtless have re-
 " moved me from the world, if this oppor-
 " tunity had not offered. I grew more calm,
 " and apply'd myself with such diligence to
 " my new employment, that I gained the af-
 " fection of all the sailors, and my captain
 " treated me as if I had been his own son.
 " After passing five years in this servitude, in
 " which I made several voyages to Guinea,
 " and to Virginia, where we disposed of our
 " slaves, we came to England. I found my
 " uncle in possession of my grandfather's whole
 " fortune, for the old gentleman lived but a
 " short time after my banishment, and made
 " no mention of me in his will. I was advised
 " to make application to my uncle for a small
 " sum to begin trade with; forty pound was
 " all I asked, and was not only refused a shil-
 " ling, but, in a rude manner repulsed by his
 " steward; who told me, I must go about my
 " business, for his master was determined to
 " do nothing for me, or to own such beggarly
 " relations,

" relations, and if I came ever so often he
 " would not see me. To add to my concern
 " at this treatment, I found upon enquiry,
 " that my good schoolmaster was no more,
 " and that his family had quitted Canterbury.
 " My captain being informed of all this, of-
 " fered to advance what money I wanted, to
 " be repay'd when I was able; but refused to
 " take my note for it. With this I began
 " trade, and was soon after promoted to be a
 " mate in his ship, in which capacity I remain-
 " ed four years, when I paid him the loan, he
 " had so kindly lent me, and had gained some-
 " thing to make my way with. He having
 " obtained a handsome competency, and mar-
 " rying a rich widow in Jamaica, who had one
 " only daughter well provided for, left off the
 " trade, and made over his ship and interest to
 " me; behold me now captain Hinfum. I
 " was so successful in my merchandize, that,
 " at the age of forty I had acquired enough to
 " live on shore; and was determined to follow
 " the example of my worthy captain, for the
 " sake of whose company I settled in Jamaica,
 " and married his daughter in law, who brought
 " me a considerable fortune. At my first set-
 " tling in that island I purchased a plantation,
 " which, with my wife's, has turned to such
 " an account, that I am at this time worth
 " better than twenty thousand pounds. Nei-
 " ther my friend the captain, nor I, were blest
 " with children; he died in a good old age,
 " having first buried his wife; the loss of mine
 " occasioned my return to England, where I

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" was in hopes of meeting with some of my
 " relations, but notwithstanding all my en-
 " quiries, I have not yet found any ; my fa-
 " ther's family being extinct in me, and my
 " mother's after squandering their whole e-
 " state, have left the country many years, so
 " that I despair of ever seeing any branch of
 " it. This, Colonel, is a succinct account of
 " my history. I have very few acquaintance
 " in England, and the little time I have to
 " live, should be glad of such a one as you to
 " converse with ; if you would permit me now
 " and then to smoak my pipe by your fire-side,
 " I would take a lodging in your neighbour-
 " hood." The Colonel, highly pleased with
 the old gentleman's story and proposition, told
 him he should be extremely glad of his com-
 pany, whenever it was agreeable to him to
 favour him with it ; and before they parted it
 was agreed that he should have a lodging in
 the same street.

C H A P. VI.

A lover makes his appearance.

HAVING paid our compliments in the last
 chapter to Colonel Jeffon, we will do the
 like to Mr. Manly, who went the same even-
 ing to the appointment he had made with
 Mr.

Mr. Doughty, and found him accompanied by a genteel, sensible, and modest young gentleman, who Mr. Doughty informed him was the person from whom he received the letter when he was at Mr. Moody's, lately arrived from abroad, and the very gentleman that rescued the justice. Mr. Manly, upon hearing this, presented the seal to the stranger, who declared at the sight of it, he would not have lost it for a hundred guineas; the gentleman expressing some surprize at his not advertising it, since he set so great a value upon it; he reply'd, He had particular reasons against describing it in that publick manner, adding, "It was presented to me by the mother of the only woman in the world, that ever made an impression upon my heart." Mr. Doughty asked if his favourite was living? This question was answer'd with a deep sigh, follow'd by, "Yes, Sir, I am informed she is, but in such a situation as it would be highly imprudent in me to think of her." "She is marry'd then," said Manly, I wish she was, Sir, reply'd the stranger, but alas! from the accounts I hear of her, she is in a very different way of life. You must know, gentlemen, I loved this unhappy creature with the sincerest affection, when she was but in the dawn of life; and though my fortune was much superior to her's, pursued her long with fruitless solicitations. She rejected my suit with so much disdain, that I made a resolution to leave the kingdom, in hopes by time and absence to forget her; but though some years have re-

"volved

"volved since I try'd this experiment, I find it
 "ineffectual to banish her loved idea from my
 "heart; and when my affairs recalled me, I
 "brought home the same unalterable affection
 "for her. As soon as I set foot on my native
 "shore, I enquired after her family, and was
 "informed they were retired from the metro-
 "polis to a distant part of the kingdom; I
 "pursued with all possible expedition, the
 "track I was advised to take in search of her;
 "but after a tedious journey of two hundred
 "miles, when I arrived at the place of their
 "retreat, I learnt that the young lady having
 "lost her parents, and being reduced to very
 "narrow circumstances, had left that part of
 "England, but could not obtain any know-
 "ledge of her abode, tho' I offered to bribe
 "the person in whose house she had lodged.
 "Heartily vexed at this disappointment, I re-
 "turned to town, and apply'd to the general
 "post office for intelligence concerning her,
 "every day enquiring for letters directed to
 "her. By this method I found one addressed
 "to her at a shop whither I went the day
 "after; but though the people of whom I de-
 "manded her place of residence, refused to
 "oblige me with an answer; I accidentally
 "met a gentleman there who gratified my
 "curiosity, by acquainting me with her miser-
 "able situation." I should have imagined,
 Sir, said Mr. Doughty, "Disagreeable as the
 "relation of the misfortunes of a person once
 "beloved, must be to a soul capable of tender
 "sensations, the benevolence of your disposi-
 "tion

" tion was not displeased with an opportunity
 " of exerting itself in the relief of such an ob-
 " ject, did you not mention her as remaining
 " in a state of misery ; and I must upon this
 " occasion take the liberty to remind you of
 " what I always endeavoured, whilst you were
 " under my care to inculcate ; I mean that
 " christian and truly noble maxim of charity
 " to those who have offended us ; the true ob-
 " servance of which, certainly extends beyond
 " a bare pardoning of offences, even to the
 " doing good to those that hate us : I hope
 " you are not amongst the number of those
 " who affirm, giving and forgiving to be dif-
 " ferent terms, since in the Christian vocabu-
 " lary they are synonymous ; and as heaven
 " has been graciously pleased to bless you with
 " abundance of wealth, you will not permit
 " the remembrance of your former sufferings
 " from the disdain of this lady, to prevent
 " your affording her the aid she may stand in
 " need of, to rescue her from a state of poverty
 " and distress." " I am no less obliged to
 " you, Sir, answered the young gentleman,
 " for your friendly admonitions now, than
 " when I was your pupil, and assure you, those
 " I received from you in my earliest years,
 " were ingrafted with too much care to be re-
 " moved from my mind by time, or the avoca-
 " tions of the world ; that maxim amongst
 " many others which you transplanted from
 " your own generous breast into mine, has
 " taken too deep root to be expunged by all
 " the sophistry of virtues malignant opponents.

" So

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" So far am I from retaining any resentment
 " for the usage I received from this misguided
 " fair one, my heart bleeds for the calamities
 " her conduct must bring upon herself both
 " here and hereafter. Had her misfortunes
 " arose from the source you imagine, my purse
 " and heart should have been entirely at her
 " disposal, but alas ! she is not in a capacity to
 " need the one, or to receive the other, as you
 " will acknowledge, when with the utmost
 " grief I tell you, she has barter'd her inno-
 " cence for means to supply her vanity ; and,
 " after suffering herself to be seduced from
 " virtue by an old gentleman of fortune, whose
 " liberality supported her some time, was by
 " him introduced to the acquaintance of a
 " married man, in whose house she now resides,
 " and has had the artifice to ingratiate herself
 " into his wife's favour, by a specious pretence
 " of innocence in distress. The person from
 " whom I received this account, told me the
 " name of her last seducer, and spoke of her
 " with as much compassion, as the circum-
 " stances of such a tale would admit of. Yet
 " however plain the proofs of her misconduct
 " appeared from his relation, I was unwilling
 " to give immediate credit to them, and de-
 " termin'd if it were possible to get to the
 " speech of her ; with this intent I went to the
 " house where I was informed she lived, and
 " demanded of the servant that came to the
 " door, to be introduced to her. The fellow,
 " with an ill bred assurance, stared, and an-
 " swer'd, his master was not at home, and in
 " VOL. II. O his

“ his absence he knew that lady would not see
 “ any body; then rudely clapt the door in my
 “ face, without waiting for my reply; such
 “ reception, adding strength to the assertions
 “ of the stranger, I could no longer refuse as-
 “ senting to them, had they not been corrobo-
 “ rated by evidence of the like import, which
 “ I received since from a nobleman, with whom
 “ I chanced to be in company, and who visit-
 “ ed at her father’s before I left England.”
 During this recital, Mr. Manly’s countenance
 underwent various revolutions: Mr. Doughty
 “ finding he had concluded it, said, “ I must
 “ own, by your report, appearances are strong-
 “ ly against this unfortunate lady; yet as there
 “ is a possibility that she may be falsely accus-
 “ ed, you ought not without a positive cer-
 “ tainty of the truth of what you have heard
 “ to condemn her; malice has too many en-
 “ gineers under its command, for virtuous
 “ poverty always to maintain its ground against
 “ their cruel and subtil attacks; we frequently
 “ see their bolts levelled at those whom for-
 “ tune has already degraded from their native
 “ sphere, in order to sink them still lower;
 “ and have not you observed that power and
 “ beauty once depressed, are the common
 “ marks to which they are pointed? it is there-
 “ fore not only possible, but probable, that
 “ this lady, whilst in the pride of beauty and
 “ prosperity, may have treated others of her
 “ admirers with the like scorn, which you ex-
 “ perience from her, and a disappointed pas-
 “ sion under the guidance of malice, may have
 “ chosen

“ chosen this method of traducing her to re-
 “ venge slights of that nature.” This speech
 was seconded with one to the same purport
 from Mr. Manly, who added, “ What Mr.
 “ Doughty has said, Sir, I can illustrate, by
 “ relating a matter of fact which has happened
 “ within my own knowledge.” The gentle-
 men both requesting him to make them ac-
 quainted with it, he gave them the history of
 Miss Murrells, as near as he could remember
 in her own words, ’till he met her at the mil-
 liner’s, and from thence, what his own ac-
 quaintance with her furnished him with to the
 present period. He observed the stranger held
 his handkerchief before his face, whilst he was
 recounting the vicissitudes of her fortune ; and
 at the conclusion arose, and traversed the room
 with much emotion ; then flinging himself into
 a chair, he gave vent to the fulness of his heart
 by a copious flow of tears ; in which situation
 neither of his companions thought proper to
 interrupt him, but remained silent spectators of
 a scene that may possibly excite the ridicule of
 those valiant heroes, who think it beneath the
 dignity of their sex, to shew such a tender sen-
 sibility of virtue ennobled by distress ; tho’ they
 can perhaps tamely yield themselves voluntary
 slaves to the most ignoble and basest of passions
 I must therefore caution thee, reader, as a
 friend, if thou beest of this last class, that thou
 dost not presume to accuse this youth of un-
 manly cowardice ; least it should be found that
 thou hast submitted thyself to be enslaved by

object vice ; and, if thou aimeſt at true heroifm let me adviſe thee to take thy pattern, as well as thy weapon from Steele*.

C H A P. VII.

Gives a further account of the lover, and other matters.

THE agitations in which we left the gentleman, in the foregoing chapter, were eaſier to be accounted for by Mr. Manly, than by the clergyman ; the former imputed them to the cauſe, which no doubt the ſagacious reader has aſſigned ; but leaſt it ſhould not appear ſo obvious to all who may peruſe theſe volumes, I think proper to inform them, that the ſtranger was no other than Mr. Truelove, the gentleman who firſt declared a paſſion for Miſs Murrells. This, as ſoon as he recovered the uſe of ſpeech, he confeſſed to Mr. Doughty and Mr. Manly, telling the latter, He ſhould ever think himſelf under the higheſt obligation to him, for the good news he had imparted, and the friendly protection he had granted to the perſon who was dearer to him than life. By comparing the time and place, when and where he had received that falſe intelligence concern-

* Vid. the Chriſtian Hero.

ing Miss Murrells, it appeared evident to them all, that Mackshane was the author of the calumny ; and Mr. Truelove had not a doubt remaining of her innocence, or the injury her reputation had sustain'd. He beg'd Mr. Manly to introduce him to her immediately. " Oh !
 " cry'd he, How amiable must that dear creature appear, divested of that haughtiness which was the only foible I ever could discern in her !—If she will but do me the honour to accept of my hand, with the same sincerity with which I shall offer it, I shall esteem myself the happiest of mortals !—
 " Dear Sir, when will you be so good as to accompany me to her ?" Young gentleman, reply'd Mr. Manly, " I cannot condemn your impatience, and I am certain she would with gratitude return your generous affection ; but by so abrupt a procedure, her delicacy may be alarmed ; and if you would give me leave to be the messenger of such agreeable tidings, I think it would be proper to hint your return and inclinations to her, before you make your appearance." Mr. Doughty declared himself of the same opinion, and the lover was prevailed with to wait 'till Mr. Manly had an opportunity of giving the lady notice of his arrival. This topick had so engrossed the conversation, that Mr. Truelove had forgot to enquire after the gentleman he rescued at Hampstead ; but, upon reviewing the seal, he beg'd pardon for that neglect ; saying, " My time and thoughts have been so
 " taken up in enquiries after my dear Bell,

“ since that accident happened, that I fear I
 “ have been guilty of ill manners, in omitting
 “ a personal visit to him.” Mr. Manly an-
 “wer’d, “ Mr. Moody is too much obliged to
 “ you, Sir, for the seasonable relief you afford-
 “ ed him, to expect you should put yourself to
 “ any inconvenience for a meer punctilio; he
 “ would be glad, I dare say, of an opportunity
 “ to return his acknowledgments in a more
 “ suitable manner, than he could at the Flask;
 “ and I hope you will give him one, by fa-
 “ vouring me with your company when he
 “ comes to my house; he seem’d to be appre-
 “ hensive of your meeting with some hurt in
 “ lifting him off the ground.” Mr. Truelove
 said, He should do himself the honour of wait-
 ing on Mr. Manly, and that he had received
 no other harm in aiding Mr. Moody but a
 sprain’d wrist; which, said he, “ I perceive, by
 “ your account, gave rise to a suspicion in the
 “ mind of my angel, that I was the wretch
 “ employed by Lord Courtall to prosecute
 “ her.” Very true, answer’d Manly, “ That
 “ trivial incident of the ribbon upon your
 “ hands, proved very injurious to her ease, and
 “ I must own, created the like suspicion in
 “ me.” The conversation that followed be-
 tween these three gentlemen ’till they separat-
 ed, I shall omit, as the reader may be pleas’d
 to return with me to Miss Murrells; who, after
 passing a night with Mrs. Jeffon at Windsor,
 came to town the following day. Upon their
 entrance into the house, Mrs. Jeffon told the
 Colonel, she had received a fresh proof of Miss
 Murrells’s

Murrells's attachment to their family, since
 they set out upon their journey, and had
 brought her back, notwithstanding the most
 friendly and earnest solicitations of an old ac-
 quaintance, who had strenuously insisted upon
 her taking up her abode with her. " You do
 " us a great deal of honour, Madam, said the
 " Colonel to Miss Murrells, I dare believe
 " there are many who envy us the pleasure of
 " your company ; but, I did not know you
 " had any acquaintance in Berkshire." " Nor
 " I neither, Sir, returned Miss Murrells, but
 " I must desire you would not make me such
 " undeserved compliments ; the obligations I
 " have received from you, and this dear lady,
 " fill my soul with more grateful sentiments
 " than words can express ; it is to your uncom-
 " mon goodness and humanity, that I am in-
 " debted for the peace of mind I now enjoy ;
 " in a situation far above my expectations or
 " desert. What must have become of me, a
 " poor helpless orphan ! destitute of friends,
 " and almost of the common necessities of life,
 " driven by the persecutions of a potent ene-
 " my, from the habitation in which by industry
 " I might have got my bread, had not heaven
 " been graciously pleased to raise me up such
 " friends as you have proved ? but, as it would
 " be disagreeable to your ear, though the most
 " grateful office to my tongue, to recount the
 " many instances of unmerited kindness, which
 " I daily receive from you, I shall not attempt
 " it ; tho' they are such as I can never hope to
 " return, but by petitioning that omnipotent
 " Being,

" Being, who can alone reward such merito-
 " rious acts, to shower down his choicest blef-
 " sings on the defender of the fatherless. And
 " can you think me capable, with such senti-
 " ments ingrafted in my heart, of giving the
 " preference to any other family? though I
 " acknowledge myself greatly obliged to the
 " lady for honouring me with her notice; and
 " would do any thing to serve her, consistent
 " with my duty to dear Mrs. Jeffon." The
 Colonel, observing her eyes overflowed with
 tears of gratitude, cried, " Enough, my dear
 " Miss Murrells, upon this subject; we need
 " not such tender assurances of what the whole
 " tenour of your conduct evidences: I rejoice
 " at your meeting with this friend; but, may
 " I not be favoured with her name?" " My
 " dear, says Mrs. Jeffon, I will take upon me
 " to answer your question. When we had
 " conveyed Frank to school, his master was so
 " obliging to offer to attend us to Windsor,
 " in order to shew Miss Murrells the castle;
 " accordingly we went, and whilst she was at-
 " tentively regarding the paintings, I desired
 " her to turn her eyes to two ladies who enter-
 " ed the gallery (attended by a gentleman)
 " one of which, in my opinion, eclipsed them
 " all. After looking upon these strangers, I
 " observed her countenance change, and with
 " great emotion, she said to me, " They are
 " Sir Charles and Lady Farewell," the lady
 " was now advanced pretty near us, with her
 " eyes fixt upon the portrait of the dutchess of
 " Cleveland; and I, willing to make her old
 " acquaintance

acquaintance known to her, took occasion
 to call Miss Murrells by her name; upon
 which the lady turned about, and beckoned
 Sir Charles; and after a long whisper be-
 tween them, they removed up to us, and
 saluting Miss Murrells, said, They thought
 themselves very fortunate in this acciden-
 tal interview, having made great enquiry
 after her, and never could obtain any cer-
 tain intelligence of her health and situation.
 A conversation ensued between them, in
 which I informed them who I was, when
 they addressed me in a polite manner, and
 intreated me to pass that night at Mrs.
 Moreton's house at Windsor (the lady who
 was with them) who joined so heartily in
 this request, that we comply'd with it, and
 did not return to Eaton as we intended. Sir
 Charles told us, that after passing a month
 at Bath, they attended Mrs. Moreton to her
 house at Windsor; where she proposed stay-
 ing a week, before she went to her town
 one. Lady Farewell took Miss Murrells
 aside, and in the tenderest manner, mention'd
 the concern she had felt from the account
 she had heard of the change in her circum-
 stances, and not in private, but before me in-
 treated to make her house her home; Sir
 Charles seconded this request with great
 earnestness; but, dear Bell, declined the of-
 fer, and after expressing the highest regard
 for us, declared she was as happy as she
 could wish. However, I have given my
 promise that she shall attend them down to
 " Cheshire

“ Cheshire for a few months, if no unforeseen
 “ accident intervene. This morning Sir
 “ Charles, who is an early riser, walked into
 “ the town by five o’clock, and about ten his
 “ lady sent to desire our company in her dress-
 “ ing room; where we found her accompanied
 “ by a young woman who looked pale and in-
 “ disposed, sitting with a bed gown on; ima-
 “ gining she was some of Mrs. Moreton’s fa-
 “ mily, who had been too ill to appear at sup-
 “ per, I expressed as much to Lady Farewell;
 “ but she told me, that she never saw her ’till
 “ this morning, tho’ her relations had been
 “ long known to Sir Charles. This raised
 “ my curiosity to know who she was; after
 “ breakfast, her ladyship desired her to go into
 “ a bed, saying, I am sure, Madam, you have
 “ great occasion for rest after the fatigue you
 “ have gone through. She reply’d, she was
 “ much obliged to her, and would be glad to
 “ compose herself; upon which she retired to
 “ a bed chamber, attended by her ladyship,
 “ and Sir Charles made his appearance in the
 “ dressing room; of him I demanded who the
 “ stranger was, and he was so obliging as to
 “ relate the following particulars concerning
 “ her.”

CHAP.

C H A P. VIII.

Miss Francis's story is related.

“ **T**HE name of the person you enquire
 “ after, Madam, said Sir Charles, is
 “ Francis ; her father was an honest worthy
 “ man, who had about one thousand pounds
 “ to begin the world with, and was once clerk
 “ to an attorney, but his master dying before
 “ his clerkship expired, and having neglected
 “ to enroll his indentures, he was incapable of
 “ acting in that capacity. My father knowing
 “ him, made him his steward, a place worth
 “ two hundred pound a year ; which trust he
 “ discharged with great fidelity. Some time
 “ after he was in that capacity, he married ;
 “ and the birth of this daughter occasioned the
 “ death of his wife. He survived her twelve
 “ years, and proved the most indulgent parent
 “ to the child, when he was taken out of the
 “ world by a malignant fever, which it was
 “ thought he caught by a close attendance on
 “ my father, who died a few weeks before of
 “ the same distemper. I was at that time in
 “ Italy, otherwise I think he would have con-
 “ sulted me in the provision he made for his
 “ daughter. At the first appearance of his
 “ malady, being apprehensive of the effect, he
 “ sent for an attorney to settle his affairs ;
 “ Burly by name, a man about fifty years of
 “ age, of reputed integrity and wealth, with
 “ whom he had been long acquainted. He
 “ made

" made him sole executor to his will, and
 " guardian to his child, to whom, as I had
 " heard, he left near three thousand pounds.
 " At my return from abroad, I enquired after
 " this girl, and was informed that her guardian
 " had placed her at a school to finish her edu-
 " cation. Mr. Burly left our neighbourhood
 " soon after, and went to reside near London.
 " From which time I never saw him, 'till this
 " morning I observed him to drive into an inn
 " yard in a chaise; the horses seemed to have
 " been hard drove, and he was accompanied
 " by a young woman, who appeared very odd-
 " ly habited for travelling, having no hat or
 " covering on, but a loose gown and a night
 " cap; she was in tears, and seemed in the ut-
 " most distress. This object occasioned me,
 " who immediately recollected Burly, to step
 " into the inn, and wait for their alighting;
 " I then went up to him, and demanded if any
 " accident had happened to them upon the
 " road, to discompose his fellow traveller? he
 " reply'd, No, Sir; but girls are very apt to
 " whimper when any thing crosses their hu-
 " mour. At these words she lifted up her
 " eyes streaming with tears, cast a look to-
 " wards him, and shook her head. Notwith-
 " standing her disorder, I thought I could dis-
 " cern a likeness of my father's steward in her
 " face, and conjectured she must be his ward;
 " upon which I asked him if she was not Miss
 " Francis, he answer'd, Yes; I then went up
 " to speak to her, but instead of replying to
 " the compliment I made her, she flung herself
 " into

" into a chair in the room we were got into,
 " and fainted away. Alarmed at this, I called
 " the landlady to her assistance, and she a lit-
 " tle revived; but continuing to fall from one
 " fainting fit to another, I advised she might
 " be carried up to a bed: Burly would have
 " gone with her, but I forcibly withheld him;
 " thinking she would rather chuse to be at-
 " tended by persons of her own sex; accord-
 " ingly she was carried up stairs, and that mo-
 " tion brought her enough to herself to de-
 " mand of the hostess where she was, and my
 " name; having received an answer, she said
 " to the woman, Oh! dear, good Madam, if
 " you have any compassion for a distressed
 " creature, help me to the speech of Sir
 " Charles Farewell, unknown to the wretch
 " that brought me here; you may perceive by
 " the figure I make, that I am here against my
 " own consent. She then told the woman,
 " what her father had been to our family.
 " The landlady hearing this, came to me,
 " who was discoursing with the guardian, and
 " said, There has been an affair happened con-
 " cerning one of your honour's servants, since
 " you came to Windsor, that I would be glad
 " to acquaint your honour with, if you would
 " give me leave. Upon this I left the room,
 " and she kept in sight of it whilst she related
 " what Miss Francis had said. Hearing this,
 " I began to imagine she must have some very
 " urgent reason for making such a request;
 " and desired the hostess to tell Burly (if he
 " asked for her) that she would not disturb
 Vol. II. P " her;

“ her; and to desire Miss Francis to attend
 “ her a back way to Mrs. Moreton’s, where
 “ my wife was, who would hear what she had
 “ to say. With these orders and a guinea, I
 “ dispatched the woman, having wrote a note
 “ to inform my wife who the stranger was,
 “ and to beg her to detain her ’till I return’d.
 “ I examined Burly as to the occasion of his
 “ ward’s disorder, and he reply’d, She is a
 “ perverse huffy, and refuses to marry the man
 “ I have chose for her, and she had got into
 “ an improper acquaintance; I went to fetch
 “ her to my house in order to introduce her
 “ into a more reputable one; when she oppos-
 “ ed my design, and would not suffer herself
 “ to be dressed in a manner proper for a jour-
 “ ney. I then demanded from whence they
 “ came so early? he answer’d, from Henly.
 “ Not content with this reply, I stept to the
 “ hostess, and ordered her to enquire of his
 “ coachman, how far his master had come this
 “ morning? and to return her answer in writ-
 “ ing, when I rang, for I did not chuse to
 “ leave the guardian long. The officious
 “ landlady executed my commission, and sent
 “ in these lines sealed up when I rang, “ In
 “ obedience to your honour’s commands, I
 “ have asked the coachman, and he sais he set
 “ out about twelve last night, and drove thirty
 “ miles without baiting; and, moreover, that
 “ the lady was forced into the chaise; she is
 “ now safe at Mrs. Moreton’s.” Upon perus-
 “ ing this note, I perceived Burly had deceiv-
 “ ed me, and his whole behaviour being very
 “ suspicious

" suspicious, I was impatient to hear Miss
 " Francis's account of his proceedings; yet
 " could not tell how to leave him, till I thought
 " of introducing the topick of Canning and
 " Squires, having luckily in my pocket, the
 " pamphlets which are both said to contain
 " authentick, tho' I find give quite contrary
 " accounts of that intricate affair. These I
 " gave him to peruse, and beg'd he would
 " give me his opinion of them when I re-
 " turn'd; for I must be obliged to step to the
 " people of the house, to enquire into the be-
 " haviour of the servant the hostess complained
 " of; this was about nine o'clock, and he was
 " desirous of waking his ward, and pursuing
 " his journey; but I told him, if he offered to
 " disturb her till noon, I should think he had
 " a design of injuring her health, and should
 " resent it; upon which he promised not to
 " call her till I thought proper, and I believe
 " had no notion of my suspicions. When I
 " had fixt them to reading, I came here and
 " found Miss Francis conversing with my
 " wife; to whom she had begun to relate her
 " story, which I desired her to continue; upon
 " which, she said, When she was sixteen, her
 " guardian removed her from school, and be-
 " ing a widower, put the management of his
 " family chiefly under her direction for a year,
 " and then recommended a nephew of his,
 " who he intended for his heir, to her for a
 " husband; but she, knowing this young fel-
 " low to be an abandoned libertine, refused to
 " accept of him, and was continually reized

“ by his uncle upon that head, ’till she posi-
 “ tively told him she never would comply with
 “ them ; which so enraged him, that he sent
 “ her to board at a poor cottage in Oxford-
 “ shire, with a female relation of his, who was
 “ a dependant upon him. Here she was kept
 “ a close prisoner, and the use of pen, ink and
 “ paper denied her, never being permitted to
 “ stir out of the sight of the woman who had
 “ the care of her. After passing a month in
 “ this manner, in which time she had seen the
 “ face of no human creature but her governess,
 “ and a little girl, that was kept for her servant :
 “ Her guardian came to make her a visit, and
 “ contrary to her expectations, behaved to her
 “ with great lenity, never mentioning his nep-
 “ hew the first day of his arrival ; which en-
 “ couraged her, on the following one, to beg
 “ him to remove her from the confinement she
 “ was under ; saying she found it as prejudicial
 “ to her health, as to her peace of mind. In
 “ answer to this request, he declared it was
 “ quite against his inclinations to give her
 “ any uneasiness ; on the contrary, said he, I
 “ would gladly purchase your affection, at the
 “ price of all I am worth. She reply’d, It
 “ would be no difficult matter to gain her
 “ esteem, as he must be sensible by her beha-
 “ viour to him, before he urged her to marry
 “ his nephew, she regarded and obeyed him as
 “ a parent ; and if he would be so kind never
 “ more to importune her upon that subject, she
 “ should ever have such an affection for him
 “ as he desired. Can you then love me, my
 “ dear

“ dear Jenny? cry’d he. I shall indeed, re-
 “ turn’d she, respect you as a father, though I
 “ never can as an uncle; he answer’d, Well!
 “ possibly I may indulge your humour, but
 “ then you must hearken to another proposi-
 “ tion which I have to make; I love you, my
 “ dear girl, as well as ever your father did,
 “ though I am not so old as he, my dear; and
 “ think as you are of age to reflect upon the
 “ situation of your affairs, it is proper you
 “ should no longer be ignorant of the purport
 “ of your father’s will, which I have brought a
 “ copy of for your perusal; you perhaps don’t
 “ know that he made me sole executor, and
 “ left you entirely at my disposal, both as to
 “ your person and fortune; for, provided you
 “ marry against my consent, you cannot com-
 “ mand a shilling, the whole in that case he
 “ has bequeathed to me, and my heirs. She,
 “ greatly astonish’d at this intelligence, sus-
 “ pected the truth of it, and cry’d, It is im-
 “ possible my father should in his senses, make
 “ so absurd a disposition of his effects; you
 “ cannot imagine, if I am capable of reflection,
 “ as you say, that I can credit such an unnatu-
 “ ral story. My dear, reply’d he, I am not
 “ surpris’d at your discrediting my bare word
 “ in such an affair, but here it is proved in
 “ black and white, shewing her a parchment,
 “ which she eagerly snatch’d out of his hand,
 “ and to her great concern, was convinc’d he
 “ had not asserted a falsity. Vexation tied
 “ her tongue, whilst his went on, My dear
 “ Jenny, says he, you cannot now question my

“ veracity ; however, this disposition is not so
 “ unaccountable as you seem to imagine, your
 “ father knew what he did ; and being desirous
 “ of an alliance with me, no doubt took this
 “ method to procure it. Yet, I must own, if
 “ he had not been well assured of my honesty,
 “ he would have been to blame to throw such
 “ a temptation in my way ; some guardians
 “ would have taken the advantage of engros-
 “ sing his money, by resisting every match
 “ that offered, and kept you upon the annuity
 “ which you see I am to pay you when you
 “ come of age. I see nothing of any such
 “ thing, return’d she, neither can I tell how
 “ to look over that cruel parchment. He
 “ then directed her eyes to a part that expres-
 “ sed, if she refused any husband her guardian
 “ should prudently recommend to her, and
 “ chose to remain single, at the age of twenty one
 “ he was to pay her forty pounds a year during
 “ her natural life ; which, at her death, was to
 “ revert to him and his heirs. The tears
 “ streaming from her eyes at this, he wiped
 “ them off as they fell, and said, You perceive
 “ the extent of my power, but I have more
 “ generosity than to desire you to live unmar-
 “ ried upon that account ; and would have
 “ bestowed you on my nephew meerly to
 “ put you into possession of what the law will
 “ entitle me to, if you were rashly to engage
 “ in wedlock without my approbation. But
 “ since I find you cannot be brought to ap-
 “ prove of him, if you will agree to another
 “ scheme, I will instantly surrender up your
 “ father’s

" father's effects to you. And what is that
 " pray? said she, a very easy task, answer'd
 " Burly, it is but to love a man some years
 " older than yourself, who doats upon you to
 " distraction; It is not so easy a task as you
 " imagine, reply'd his ward, to love an utter
 " stranger; but if you will take me from this
 " place, and bring me acquainted with the
 " person you recommend, I shall be better able
 " to give you my sentiments. I must have
 " them, return'd he, before you quit this
 " house, since you are no stranger to me, my
 " dear, tho' your unexperience, and regarding
 " me as much older than I am, has kept you
 " so to my passion for you, which was the oc-
 " casion of my proposing to you my nephew;
 " thinking if you rejected so young a man,
 " you might possibly not be averse to me;
 " what say you? Can you have gratitude
 " enough to bestow your affection upon me,
 " who would part with my whole fortune to
 " obtain it? I insist upon your answer. His
 " ward, alarmed at this speech, and the free-
 " dom with which he forced a kiss from her,
 " knew not what to reply; she feared to exas-
 " perate him by a peremptory denial, and yet
 " could not endure the thoughts of passing
 " her days with a man, who, notwithstanding
 " an appearance of outward sanctity, she had
 " discovered to be very loose in his morals,
 " and knavish in his dealings; for, as to the
 " disparity of their years, she solemnly declares
 " that would have been no objection to her;
 " destitute, as she thought herself of friends,
 " she

“ she remained silent, till he pressed her again
 “ to reply ; she then plucked up the courage
 “ to say, I have heard you so often protest
 “ against marrying again, that I am at a loss
 “ to know whether you are in jest or earnest,
 “ but I hope the former ; and should think
 “ myself extremely obliged to you, if you
 “ would not insist upon me saying more,
 “ than that I have no desire to become a wife,
 “ and had much rather live upon the annuity
 “ specified in that unkind will. I cannot
 “ blame you, answer’d he, for being desirous
 “ of preserving your liberty, and have too
 “ great an affection for you, to seek to deprive
 “ you of it ; but we can love, my dear girl,
 “ without entering into bonds ; what I propose
 “ would render me happy, whilst you should
 “ remain free, and absolute mistress of my
 “ heart, and the money your father left, every
 “ farthing of which I will generously resign
 “ into your own power, the moment you con-
 “ sent to live with me as I desire ; explaining
 “ himself more fully, she perceived to her in-
 “ expressible amazement, he solicited her to
 “ become his mistress ; which she resented so
 “ highly as to call him villain. He, no daunt-
 “ ed at this, repeated the odious proposal, tell-
 “ ing her he apprehended her chief objection,
 “ was endangering her reputation in the eye
 “ of the world ; but, to secure that, he had
 “ concerted the following scheme. My nep-
 “ hew, said he, entirely depends upon my
 “ bounty, and would be ready to consent to
 “ any proposition by which he might be a
 “ gainer ;

“ gainer ; he has lately disobliged me, but I
 “ would forgive him, and part with five hun-
 “ dred pounds to convey him to a distant part
 “ of the world, from whence he shall engage
 “ never to return to molest us, provided you
 “ will but suffer the form of matrimony to
 “ pass between you ; and the moment the ce-
 “ remony is performed, he shall bid adieu to
 “ us ; I will have a deed of gift drawn up, in
 “ which he shall make over your fortune to
 “ your disposal, ready for him to sign, the in-
 “ stant the parson has given you a right to his
 “ name ; you and I may retire to this private
 “ village for a few weeks, and then return to
 “ my house as my niece, and nobody can be
 “ surpris’d at your living with me during your
 “ husband’s absence, or of my fondness for
 “ his wife ; who, it shall be given out is gone
 “ to sea. By this method you may keep up
 “ appearances amongst your acquaintance, and
 “ lead a life of freedom, ease and pleasure.
 “ To this she reply’d, That could he bestow
 “ the treasures of the East upon such terms,
 “ she would reject them with abhorrence, and
 “ should prefer a life of indigence and inno-
 “ cence to being his, now she was acquainted
 “ with his principles, even in a legal way, and
 “ contempt and beggary would be her choice,
 “ rather than to live with the most agreeable
 “ man upon earth in a criminal one. This
 “ answer occasioned a reply from him, which
 “ as it consisted of ridicule on virtue, and li-
 “ bertine expressions, I will not repeat. Find-
 “ ing she was not to be influenced in his fa-
 “ your

" your by such arguments, he proceeded to
 " threats, and told her, if she would not com-
 " ply with his desire, he would make use of
 " the authority her father had bequeathed to
 " him, and deprive her of the liberty of con-
 " versing with any other man. She declared,
 " she would submit to any confinement, rather
 " than be his upon any terms; and flung out
 " of the room, making the best of her way to
 " her chamber; whither the woman, under
 " whose care he had put her, followed her.
 " She slipped off the dress she had been in, and
 " put on the disabille which she usually wore
 " in a morning; venting many bitter exclama-
 " tions against the treachery of her guardian;
 " and earnestly imploring his cousin's assistance
 " to escape from the house in the night,—
 " saying she would wander about till some good
 " Christian afforded her a place of refuge, and
 " was afraid of nothing so much, as remaining
 " in his power. She was so importunate with
 " the woman to aid her in her escape, that she
 " answer'd, She would willingly connive at it;
 " but if Burly knew she was accessory to it, he
 " would ruin her, for she depended upon him
 " for the bread she eat; yet if she would stay
 " till he was gone, and could contrive any
 " way to get out of the house without ac-
 " quainting her with her design, she would
 " promise not to apprize him of her escape,
 " till she should inform her she was in a se-
 " cure asylum. Her guardian who had listen-
 " ed at the door, and over heard this confe-
 " rence, now burst into the room, saying, with
 " a frown

" a frown to his cousin, I will give you the in-
 " formation you require, when I have her in a
 " place of safety, which I hope will be in four
 " and twenty hours ; for since I know both
 " your minds, I am determined to part you ?
 " The moon shining very bright, he order'd
 " his servant to put to, whilst Miss Francis
 " abandoned herself to lamentations, and put
 " up ejaculatory prayers to heaven for protec-
 " tion ; his cousin implored his pardon, and
 " deprecated the wrath he denounced against
 " her, for encouraging his ward to elope. As
 " soon as his chaise was ready, he took her up
 " in his arms, notwithstanding all her entrea-
 " ties, that he would at least let her stay till it
 " was day, or permit his cousin to go with
 " her, and placed her in the chaise ; not wait-
 " ing till she could change her dress. She
 " said, they never stopt till they arrived at
 " Windsor, when the coachman declared, he
 " would go no further without baiting. This,
 " Madam, is the story Miss Francis has just
 " been relating to us, and I think it a duty
 " incumbent upon me to afford her protection,
 " and am determined to oblige her guardian
 " to produce her father's will ; as I find sinister
 " means has been used both to deprive her of
 " her fortune and her virtue. Sir Charles now
 " said, he thought it was time to return to the
 " inn, least the guardian should be impatient
 " to see his charge, and imagined it would be
 " no difficult matter, after his journey and
 " watching to lull him to sleep, by prevailing
 " with him to drink a little freely ; and by that
 " means

" means they might gain time to remove the
 " young woman out of his reach. Accord-
 " ingly he return'd to Burly, with whom he
 " staid an hour, and ply'd him so closely with
 " champaign, a liquor he was extremely fond
 " of, that he soon effected his design, and had
 " him put to bed. When he came back to us
 " he found Mr. Moreton ready to receive
 " him. To that gentleman, who was a coun-
 " sellor, he imparted the case of Miss Francis,
 " and he advised that Lady Farewell should
 " go to her, and persuade her to chuse another
 " guardian immediately, as no time was to be
 " lost, and he was ready to adjust the ceremo-
 " nials of that affair. The young woman
 " being made acquainted with this proposi-
 " tion, was highly pleased with it, and having
 " some hours sleep arose, and before a proper
 " number of witnesses, in due form, made
 " choice of Sir Charles; who declared he
 " would bring Burly to account for the will,
 " and the disposition of Miss Francis's effects.
 " By that time this affair was settled, it was
 " four o'clock, and Sir Charles would not set
 " down with us to dinner, 'till he had been at
 " the inn to enquire after Burly, whom he
 " found just risen from bed, and preparing to
 " depart; on the sight of Sir Charles, he asked
 " if he thought Miss Francis was not by this
 " time sufficiently rested? Sir Charles reply'd,
 " I hope she is; but I came to inform you,
 " that you will have no more occasion to take
 " a midnight ramble with her, since she is
 " safely lodged with the wife of her guardian.

" What

" What do you mean, Sir Charles, cry'd he?
 " I mean return'd he, That as she has made
 " choice of me for her guardian, she shall be
 " protected against the vile attempts of a man
 " who has too long imposed upon the world,
 " and would have ruined an innocent orphan
 " committed to his care, had not providence
 " sent her a deliverer in me; but be assured,
 " Burly, I will discharge the trust she has given
 " me, and secure her against your frauds for
 " the future. At this speech Burly swore and
 " raved like a madman, but Sir Charles send-
 " ing for Mr. Moreton, gave him sufficient
 " demonstration of what he had asserted; upon
 " which, after having bestowed many bitter
 " execrations on Miss Francis, he said, Though
 " he could not secure her person, he would her
 " fortune; That we shall try, reply'd Sir
 " Charles, I am determin'd, let the affair be
 " attended with ever so much expence, to see
 " to the bottom of it, and expose to all the
 " world such villainous proceedings. At end-
 " ing these words he left him, and upon his
 " return to us, made this report: He said, he
 " believes, he shall have a good deal of trouble
 " to make him refund her due, but is resolv'd
 " to prosecute the affair to the utmost. I can-
 " not pretend to describe the joy that appear-
 " ed in the young woman's countenance at
 " this intelligence; or the gratitude she ex-
 " pressed for Sir Charles and his lady. They
 " are to bring her to town with them in a few
 " days, and then you will see her, and hear the
 " further proceedings of her present guardian

“ and Burly. I should have been at home by
 “ dinner, if I had not had a great desire to see
 “ the young creature out of her trouble.”
 Mrs. Jeffson having concluded the story, the
 Colonel applauded the generous and resolute
 behaviour of the baronet, and then gave her
 Mr. Hinsum’s history, and to her great satis-
 faction inform’d her, that the legacy which
 Mrs. Goldson received was very considerable,
 and discoursed some time upon that subject;
 but, as I imagine the perusal of this long chap-
 ter may have had the same effect upon the
 reader, the journey had upon the ladies, I will
 close it, wishing him a bon repos.

C H A P. XI.

*Divulges the purport of two letters, and an ac-
 count of one wedding.*

AT this juncture Mr. Manly had no less
 than three families impatiently expecting
 to see him, and would willingly have obliged
 them all; and intended to have waited on Miss
 Murrells upon her return from Eaton, if the
 following letter had not demanded his presence
 in another place.

To

Ine
Manl

To William Manly, Esq;

Jewruesalum Coffee House.

SIR,

" **H**OPIN you will not be ofended if I
 " shood go beyon my latitude in given
 " you this trubell, I tend this with my servis
 " to let you knowe my father says he will not
 " put in his ore; but sins I am not mindded to
 " mary for luker, I may stere what coarse I see
 " fitten, so I purpuss to be mared to morrow
 " morning to Peggy, at her parrishe church,
 " and shood be glad if you wood come and be
 " her father as you promist. I haled the par-
 " son yestarday when he was rigged and set-
 " ting sale for Lambeth; and he says he will
 " keep a look out for us by elevin. I hop to
 " see you by that tim; if so be your mind as
 " chopt about, be pleesd to let us know, that
 " I may get another father.—The old gentile
 " womman and Peggy send their commanda-
 " tions, all from

Your honourd friend tel deth,

and most obedant servant,

TIMOTHY HARDY.

Inelegant as this epistle may appear, Mr.
 Manly had conceived so great an opinion of

the blunt honesty, and other valuable qualities of the inditer, that he attended him and his bride to church the next morning, and return'd with them and their mother to dine at the house of the latter; when he presented Mrs. Hardy with a handsome piece of plate, and some few precepts, calculated for the state she was enter'd into, and very proper to be annexed to those lately addressed to the toasts of Great Britain; but as I cannot recollect his expression, so as to give them in his terms, or those of the ingenious author above mentioned, the reader must excuse my repeating them. After dinner Mr. Manly beg'd leave to make an excursion to Colonel Jeffon's, engaging to return to supper. When he arrived there, he found none of the family at home, and retired to a coffee-house, from whence he wrote this letter.

To Miss Murrells, &c.

“ **Y**OU are not, dear Madam, the first fair
 “ lady who has been deceived by the
 “ appearance of a ribbon, into a false opinion
 “ of the wearer; but I could have informed
 “ you (if you were not become such a gossip)
 “ the person who caused your late alarm, was
 “ not the recreant knight, you have so much
 “ reason to dread and despise, but one of a
 “ more gentle order, who has undergone as
 “ heavy a penance, in a long exile from his
 “ obdurate fair, and native country, as any
 “ illustrious hero that owes his being to ro-
 “ mance.

" mance. This extraordinary gentleman I
 " have had an interview with, which has sur-
 " nished me with materials for a conference
 " with you upon my return from Hampstead,
 " whither I am obliged to go to-morrow. I
 " should have imparted this intelligence in
 " the morning, had not I been engaged in the
 " agreeable office of giving Miss Hill to an
 " honest and suitable husband. I hope the
 " time is approaching when you will permit
 " me the like honour, and that you will believe
 " me, when, with great sincerity, I protest no
 " parent would receive more satisfaction in
 " properly disposing of a deserving and belov-
 " ed child, than you would, in that case, con-
 " fer upon,

Madam,

Your faithful friend,

and most obedient servant,

WM. MANLY.

This epistle he dispatched to the Colonel's,
 and return'd to the bridal house, in which he
 passed the evening much to his satisfaction;
 prognosticating the future happiness of the new
 married pair, from the similitude and honest
 simplicity of their dispositions. He asked the
 bridegroom where he intended to reside? and
 was answer'd, " If Peggy likes on'r, I would
 " anchor at Deptford, seeing my uncle left

“ me a tight house there, ready rigged ; for
 “ tho’ my land lies near my father, I don’t
 “ like to keep a long side of him, because
 “ mayhap we may squabble. What say you,
 “ sweetheart? (turning to the bride.) Pray
 “ don’t be shamefaced but speak your mind
 “ afore your father here.” She reply’d, His
 “ choice of a situation to live upon would be
 “ agreeable to her.” Now that’s kind and
 “ hearty ; cry’d the tar, mefs ! I would go all
 “ the world over for your sake ; nay, I would
 “ venture the north east passage ; but seeing
 “ you like I should turn landfman, I’ll live at
 “ Deptford.” Mrs. Hill much approved of
 this situation for her daughter, and Mr. Manly
 bad adieu to this happy family, and set out the
 next morning early in his coach and six, with
 his servants in new liveries for Hampstead.

C H A P. X.

Justice Moody makes his appearance in town.

THE occasion of Mr. Manly’s setting forth
 as mentioned in the preceding chapter,
 was to fetch Mr. Moody, his sister and daugh-
 ter to town, where they arrived, and were set
 down at his house before dinner. The ladies
 were conducted by Mr. Manly into the draw-
 ing room, whilst the justice amused himself
 with

with surveying the pictures in one adjoining. His absence afforded the master of the house an opportunity of beginning a conference with Miss Moody, upon a very interesting subject, which he left her aunt to expatiate upon, whilst he went to the justice, who expressed great admiration at the splendor of his habitation; but said, " If a body may speak their
 " minds, I don't much fancy one of your pic-
 " tures; Mr. Manly asked which he disliked?
 " Why there, answer'd he, pointing to Joseph's
 " family (a piece the proprietor purchased in
 " Italy) do but look at that young woman,
 " how homely she is dress'd; and what an or-
 " dinary chair she sits on? she has a good look
 " enough, that she has, but her gown, and the
 " things about her, seem as if she lived in a
 " cottage; I must needs say, it is not fit to be
 " hung in such a handsome parlour; but I
 " suppose she was nurse to some friend of
 " yours, and so you had her drawn with the
 " child." " She was indeed, Sir, reply'd
 " Manly, nurse to the kindest and most potent
 " friend mankind ever had." The justice not
 comprehending his meaning, he explained it
 more perfectly, and took occasion from the old
 gentleman's opinion, to expatiate on the folly
 of those prejudices the generality of the world
 are too apt to imbibe against the appearances
 of poverty. From this piece he directed the
 justice's eyes to the portrait of Herod, who ap-
 pear'd in his regal robes and dignity; the sight
 of which inspired him with such veneration,
 that he cry'd, " Aye! this is something like!
 " this

" this looks grand ! I warrant this was an ex-
 " traordinary clever man." " Be pleased, Sir,
 " (said Mr. Manly) to turn to the next piece
 " which will give you an idea of his character."
 Upon which he cast his eyes on a representation
 of the slaughter'd innocents, and rough as he
 was by nature, he could not avoid shewing
 tokens of humanity, and expressing concern at
 the cruelty there exhibited, saying, " What you
 " have said is right enough, there is no know-
 " ing what folks are by the grandeur of their
 " show; now, I had rather be Gil Moody, a
 " justice in my own country, than be a king
 " of all his lands, and have such a bloody bit
 " of work to answer for." The sound of the
 dinner bell broke off this conference, and they
 adjourned to the room where the table was
 spread; at the upper end of which Mr. Manly
 placed the justice's sister, who asked for his
 niece? he answer'd, She was well, and he ex-
 pected her to spend the evening with them.
 Moody hearing this, upon the ladies retiring
 into another room, said to Mr. Manly, " I
 " thought 'squire, I was to have met Lee here,
 " and was in hopes to have made up matters
 " with him, but if your kinswoman comes, she
 " may put us out of sorts." " Not at all,
 " answer'd Manly, on the contrary, I am per-
 " suaded you will like her company. How-
 " ever, if you approve of it, we will have some
 " conversation with Mr. Lee, apart from the
 " ladies." " I think, reply'd Moody, that
 " motion may be very well, for you must un-
 " derstand, I told all my neighbours at the
 " club,

“ club, and the green, that I was going up to
 “ London to marry my daughter, depending
 “ upon your getting her a husband; and I
 “ should not like to go down again, and look
 “ baulked. However, I told Rose yesterday,
 “ that I would not cross her, and if Lee will
 “ take her according to what I told you, he
 “ may.” “ Whilst the justice was haranguing
 “ in this manner, Mr. Lee enter’d the room,
 “ and seem’d a good deal confused at sight of
 “ him.” When the old gentleman moved up
 to him, and taking him by the hand, said, “ I
 “ am glad to see you young man! I was a little
 “ hasty when I was sick at sister Severn’s, but
 “ I can’t bear malice; why you have not had
 “ the manners to ask after Rose.” Lee, amaz-
 ed at this behaviour, could not tell how to re-
 ply, or whether he meant it as an insult; Mr.
 Manly observing his perplexity, and fearing if
 he betrayed the extreme inclination he had to
 obtain her, her father would take an improper
 advantage of his passion, and not part with
 such a fortune as he could afford; said to him,
 “ I am much less surprized than Mr. Moody,
 “ at your silence upon that head; you have
 “ met with such a repulse from him, as suffi-
 “ ciently justifies the withdrawing your thoughts
 “ from that lady, deserving as she is.” Sir,
 reply’d Lee, I am so sur--! Mr. Manly would
 not permit him to finish the sentence, but inter-
 rupted him with, “ Nay, Sir, you need make
 “ no apology to Mr. Moody for obeying his
 “ commands.” Here Lee attempted to speak
 again, and was again prevented by his friend,
 of

of whom he knew not what to think, " Your
 " extraction, character, and income, continued
 " Manly, we well know might entitle you to
 " a woman of as good fortune, without wait-
 " ing for a reversion; Mr. Moody is too well
 " acquainted with the nature of bargains to
 " wonder, after he has declined the offer you
 " made, which I must own was too generous
 " to be so filed; you should now be inclined
 " to hearken to the proposal I made you."
 This speech, added to Lee's astonishment, and
 gave the old gentleman great offence; but
 having, like most tyrannical dispositions, an in-
 herent cowardice in his; he was as supple to
 those whose wealth and power set them above
 his authority, as he was arrogantly assuming
 over all who were so unhappy as to be placed
 under his jurisdiction.—That he did not pre-
 sume to shew his resentment otherwise than by
 contracting his brow, and touching the bell.
 Mr. Manly demanded the occasion of that
 motion? " Only, said he, to send one of your
 " men to get a coach, for I find it grows time
 " for us to be moving." " If you chuse it,
 " return'd Mr. Manly, it would not be good
 " manners to detain you, Sir; but I assure you
 " I shall not suffer the ladies to quit my house
 " to night. I believe you don't approve of
 " my proposal to Mr. Lee; if so, it is at your
 " option to determine whether I shall introduce
 " him to the ladies; my niece is with them."
 " I beg, Sir, said the lover to Mr. Manly, you
 " will rather permit me to depart, since Mr.
 " Moody is averse to my being admitted into
 " the

" the same company with his daughter, for
 " whose sake I would willingly endure any
 " mortification." " No, no, cry'd the justice
 " I an't against your seeing her, the squire
 " knows that ; I can't devise what makes him
 " run on in this out of the way talk, except it
 " be to try my patience ; but I'll let him to
 " know, I can be as generous as he, when I
 " am in the mind ; so I tell you flat and plain,
 " if you like Rose better than his kinswoman,
 " you may have her if you will, and so I told
 " him, whatever he means by contradicting
 " me." Mr. Lee was about to reply, when
 Mr. Manly stopt him ; " I assure you, Mr.
 " Moody, said he, my meaning is to do you
 " service ; if this gentleman, after he has seen
 " my niece, should continue to prefer your
 " daughter, I hope you will be convinced he
 " merits more with her than your bare con-
 " sent." " Why, did I not tell you, answer'd
 " Moody, he should have something with her."
 But you never told him so, return'd Mr. Manly,
 " Then I do now, cry'd the justice, hearkee,
 " young man, if you can make it appear that
 " you have got as many pounds, as my sister
 " and squire Manly sais you have, I will part
 " with some of my land, and you shall settle
 " what I please upon the girl." Mr. Lee ut-
 ter'd a profusion of rapturous acknowledgments
 for this agreeable proposition, and protested he
 would agree to any terms : Mr. Manly having
 gained his point, begged leave to step to the
 ladies, and inform them of the result of this
 conference.

C H A P.

C H A P. XI.

Shews the justice in a fright, and reveals a secret.

MR. Manly returned to the justice and Mr. Lee, in less than a quarter of an hour, handing Miss Moody, followed by her aunt, he presented the young lady to her lover, saying, " This valuable young woman is the only
" niece I have in the world ; and since her fa-
" ther is become sensible of your merit, and
" disposed to reward it, what I engaged to
" give her, when I proposed the match at
" Hampstead, waits your acceptance." At this speech the father and the lover cast their eyes upon each other, and seemed lost in amazement ; at last the former moved towards his sister, and said to her in a whisper, " Why
" sister Severn, the poor gentleman must cer-
" tainly be out of his head, these out of the
" way things can't be ! Rose, his kinswoman,
" quotha ! Can't we contrive to get her away
" from him, and steal out of the house ? for I
" don't much choose to contradict him, least he
" should be mischievous." The lady returned no answer to this but a smile ; Mr. Lee remained motionless, with astonishment at Mr. Manly's behaviour, and perhaps was somewhat inclined to impute it to the like cause ; however, observing less surprize in the countenances of the ladies, he conjectured they were not of the same opinion ; and waited impatiently

ly for an explanation of these ambiguities. Mr. Manly, remarking the perplexity he had designedly occasion'd, thought it time to remove it; and letting go Miss Moody's hand, he advanced towards her father, who had seated himself so near his sister, as to be shelter'd by her hoop; perceiving the gentleman's approach, he fell into a tremour, and with great reluctance, and a countenance in which fear was visibly depicted, he was prevailed with to give him his hand; when Mr. Manly told him, if he would favour him with his attention, he would unravel the mystery. The justice, fully persuaded that he had not the use of his reason, would gladly have avoided any farther conversation with him, but the dread of provoking a person in the condition he imagined him to be, prevented him from replying; and gently withdrawing his hand, and crouding his chair quite behind the ladies, he sat in fearful expectation of what would ensue. His astonishment increased when he saw Mr. Manly present Lee to his sister, saying, "I am sure, Sir, you will pay your compliments to my wife;" "Good lack! cry'd the justice, jogging her elbow, do but hear how the poor gentleman raves! I pity him, poor soul." "I am sorry, brother (return'd the lady) you have so bad an opinion of me, as to vent such an exclamation; and should rather have expected your congratulations, and acknowledgments of the honour done me by such an alliance." Hearing this he ventured to peep under her arm, and to look at Mr. Manly, to whom he

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said, "What a shame! you arn't married toge-
 " ther, are you?" "Indeed, Sir, we are, an-
 " swer'd Manly, and have been some time;
 " and since this lady has done me the honour
 " to make choice of me for a companion for
 " life, I must for the future take the liberty to
 " call you brother." "Nay, nay, reply'd
 " Moody, you may do so if you please; and if
 " you are in your sober senses, I shall be glad
 " to claim kindred with you: But wherefore
 " did you make such a secret on't? You were
 " both at years of discretion, my sister there is
 " fifty, and I heard you say you were nigh
 " upon threescore; so that nobody could gain-
 " say you, if you thought fit to marry." Mr.
 Manly upon this told him, how he became ac-
 quainted with his lady, and that having been
 formerly very happy in the marriage state, he
 was desirous of securing to himself the company
 of a prudent, sensible friend; which he thought
 was never so likely to be obtained as by such
 an affinity, provided there was not too great a
 disparity in the years and dispositions of the
 parties. That the privacy he had observed,
 was occasioned by her request, who thought it,
 continued he, "The best method to procure
 " your consent to the match with Mr. Lee,
 " being willing he should owe that rather to
 " his intrinsic merit, than to the fortune which
 " I shall bestow upon him; and at the same
 " time to put his constancy and her duty to
 " the test. I have happily found these ends
 " answer'd, and heartily congratulate you on
 " the proof Mr. Lee has given of such a
 " sincere

" sincere regard for your daughter, as opens
 " the fairest prospect of happiness ; and likewise
 " on the young lady's obedience, who has vo-
 " luntarily suffered the greatest uneasiness of
 " mind, in rejecting the sight and correspon-
 " dence of so deserving and esteemed a lover,
 " merely from a sense of duty ; for I solemnly
 " assure you, she was until this day, ignorant
 " of her relation to me, and my intentions in
 " her favour ; which Mrs. Manly and I ac-
 " quainted her with, since she came into this
 " house." When Mr. Manly had related
 these particulars, the lover returned him, his
 lady, and the justice thanks in the most grate-
 ful thanks in the most grateful terms ; and ad-
 dressed Miss Moody in a tender, modest, and
 sensible speech (devoid of all that fullsome
 rant made use of frequently upon such occa-
 sions, and wholly unintelligible to rational be-
 ings) tending to inform her of the just sense he
 had of the honour done him, and promising
 his endeavours to promote, as much as lay in
 his power, their mutual ease, in all the vicissi-
 tudes to which life is liable. She having re-
 turned a suitable answer, Mr. Manly said to
 her father, " I must remind you, brother, of
 " demanding a further proof of Miss Moody's
 " obedience, by insisting upon her appointing
 " the day in which the church ceremony
 " should be performed ; a very short time will
 " be necessary for the lawyers adjusting the
 " materiality of the contract, and I should
 " think some day next week would be agree-
 " able to Mr. Lee." " Do you hear, Rose

“ (cries the justice) what your new uncle sais ?
 “ will you be married next week ?—I wish you
 “ would, because I shall lose a deal of the otter
 “ hunting season, if I don’t get home soon ?”
 Mrs. Manly perceiving her niece somewhat
 embarrassed by her father’s bluntness, turned to
 him, “ I dare believe, says she, Miss Moody
 “ will oblige you ; come, my dear ! let me
 “ name Thursday seven-night.” The lover
 joined in this request so earnestly, that she was
 prevailed with to answer, “ Just as my papa
 “ pleases,” “ Well, I do please, returned he,
 “ and I wish it could have been to-morrow ;
 “ for I know Sir Revel Rattle is down, and he
 “ and his comrades will have destroyed all the
 “ beasts before I shall be able to have any
 “ sport.” This affair being settled, Mr. Manly
 reminded the justice of taking his pipe, which
 he had not called for since he came to town.
 He replied, “ If you’ll show me into your little
 “ smoaking room, I don’t care if I do take it ;
 “ but, I can’t spit and spawl here in king
 “ David’s face.” (Pointing to the carpet,
 which was indeed very curious, though the
 figure the old gentleman was so cautious of
 offending, was not a representation of the psal-
 mist, but Apollo at his harp in a grove.) The
 gentleman of the house informing him that he
 had no room in it, particularly appropriated to
 that purpose, prevailed upon him to make use
 of a bason, and pursue his usual custom.
 Whilst he was filling his pipe, he lamented the
 loss of his tobacco stopper, which he said, he
 verily believed was picked out of his pocket
 by

by the highwayman (as he called the fellow that knocked him down). This occasioned Mr. Manly to give him an account of his meeting with the gentleman that rescued him, and the pleasure he expressed upon the recovery of his seal. "He did me a kindness to be certain," said the old gentleman, but he had better "luck than I, in lighting upon his goods." "again, I am afraid I shall never lay eyes on my baccostopper, which I value because 'tis made of a queen Anne's farthing, that I keep for * antipathy sake, and was at the charge of putting a silver handle to it, with my name writ out at full length." Upon this Mr. Manly offered him the use of the deer's leg, that he had received from Tim; whose wedding furnished them with conversation 'till the lover departed, and the rest of the company retired to rest.

C H A P. XII.

Contains a paquet of news.

WHILST Mr. Manly's family are reposing, we will recount what passed at the Colonel's, from the time Miss Murrells received his letter; which was delivered to her

R 3

at

* It is supposed the justice meant antiquity.

at a return from a visit she had made with Mrs. Jeffson to Mrs. Goldson and Miss Auger, who intended to set out for the country the following day. The contents of this epistle, which she communicated to Mrs. Jeffson, caused various conjectures in their minds; she had some notion that Mr. Truelove might be the person alluded to; yet could not indulge such sanguine expectations as Mr. Manly hinted at; she thought there was a probability of that gentleman's being returned, and that some chance might have thrown him in the other's way; but if he was the person that received such a repulse from the Colonel's servant, she feared (some time being elapsed since that affair happened, and no further enquiry had been made after her) that whatever favourable intentions he had towards her, upon his first arrival, such a reception, and the accounts he must have heard of the change in her situation and circumstances, added to the remembrance of her former behaviour, would deter him from seeking to renew his acquaintance with her. So far therefore from being pleased with this account, it afforded her great uneasiness, and served to revive ideas in her mind, that she had long been endeavouring to erase, and to banish that tranquility which the treatment of the Colonel and his lady had occasioned. After passing a restless night, and whilst she was in a state of anxiety and suspense, Mr. Hinsum came to dine at the Colonel's. The old gentleman hearing her name, was very inquisitive after her family, of which the colonel related

what

what he had received from her and Mr. Manly. No sooner did Mr. Hinfum find her father was a Kentish man, than he asked her, if he was not born at a village (which he named) in that county? and whether her grandfather's name was not Richard? To all which she replied in the affirmative. He then desired to be informed in what manner her father had left his affairs? which she with tears related. The good old man seemed strongly affected with the recital, and he could not prevent the escape of some pearly drops that glided down his silver beard; then casting his eyes upwards, with great emotion he cry'd out, "Thank heaven! " I have lived to find a deserving relation, " when I despaired of ever meeting with one " in the world!" This exclamation so amazed the ladies, that though they were in all probability, endued with as much curiosity as the rest of Eve's daughters, they could not find words to express it. However, the Colonel relieved them by demanding an explanation of Mr. Hinfum's last speech, "Colonel, answer'd " he, you may remember in the detail I gave " you of my life, I mentioned an uncle that " sent me abroad; that very man was the " grandfather of this young woman, and brother " to my mother, his name was Richard " Murrells." "Oh, Sir, cry'd Miss Murrells, " are you the person that my father was so " afflicted about upon his death bed?" She then mentioned his speech upon that occasion, and being assured Mr. Hinfum was the very person, burst into a fresh flood of tears, and said,

said, She wished it had been possible for her
 dear father, to have been certain of his safety ;
 as the apprehensions of some violence being
 offered to him, ruffled him in his last moments.
 The Colonel, who was no indifferent spectator
 of this scene, and felt sensations for them both,
 which neither were able to express, congratulated
 each on this happy meeting, and gave
 Mr. Hinfurn an explicit account of the young
 lady's sufferings ; representing in the strongest
 light those which were occasioned by the per-
 secutions of Lord Courtall ; and her merit in
 preferring the alternative of poverty and distress
 with virtue, to grandeur and affluence without
 it. The good old man highly applauded her
 conduct, and told her, he desired for the future
 she would regard him as a tender and affec-
 tionate parent, saying he would adopt her for
 his child, and make the same provision for her,
 as if she had derived her birth from him. " I
 " have, continued he, thank heaven ! acquired
 " a much larger fortune than is requisite to
 " furnish me with all I desire in this world, and
 " my expences cannot be equal to the interest
 " of a moiety of it ; the superfluity therefore I
 " shall insist upon your accepting immediately
 " my dear child ;" taking her by the hand,
 " You must not refuse me the satisfaction of
 " seeing part of my substance in the possession
 " of a person so nearly allied to me, and so de-
 " serving of the whole, which I shall bequeath
 " to you at my death." The condition Miss
 Murrells's mind was in, at this extraordinary
 instance of generosity and affection, would be
 difficult

difficult to describe ; let it suffice to say, it was filled with sentiments of gratitude and veneration ; which, as soon as she was able to recover from her surprize, she expressed in words suitable to the occasion, having made her first acknowledgments to that beneficent Being who had influenced the actions of her humane benefactor.—Mr. Hinsum was so desirous of rewarding such a meritorious perseverance as she had shewn in the paths of virtue, that he needed not the information he had received concerning their affinity to excite his benevolence ; yet, what he would voluntarily have bestowed upon such an object, had she been no nearer allied to him than others of the human species, he imagined she had a right to form consanguinity, and therefore would not accept the compliments which the Colonel made him upon his liberality, saying, “ Indeed, Sir, they
 “ are misplaced ; I do no more for this dear
 “ child, than is her due ; she has been depriv-
 “ ed, by the mistaken conduct of her parents,
 “ of the fortune she ought to have inherited,
 “ and what I can give her will not compensate
 “ for their extravagance, and the distress it in-
 “ volved her in ; and for fear of accidents, I
 “ am resolved not to delay making her a repa-
 “ ration.” He was so intent upon this scheme, that he sent for a lawyer that evening, and consigned over to her ten thousand pounds for her immediate use, and then made his will.—The occurrences of this day were no less ene-
 mies

mies to Miss Murrells's repose than Mr. Manly's letter had been the night before; however, as they must afford more agreeable reflections, we will bid her adieu.

C H A P. XIII.

Mrs. Durant appears.

MISS Murrells was presented in the morning early by Mr. Hinsum, with the deed which had been made in her favour the preceding evening. She was no sooner in possession of this gift, than she told the Colonel she was desirous of conveying some assistance to Mrs. Durant; who, she was informed, had been robbed by her nephew, and destitute of common necessities, was still confined by the consequences of the accident to which Miss Murrells owed her escape, and maintained at the expence of the parish in a wretched garret: She therefore thought a visit from her might be deemed an insult, and begged he would be so good to convey her ten guineas and a letter, the purport of which was to assure her, " If she
 " would engage to employ the residue of her
 " life in supplicating the forgiveness of heaven
 " for her past offences; she freely pardoned all
 " she had done against her, and would allow
 " her the same sum every half year during her
 " life."

“ life.” This letter and present, the Colonel, being directed to her lodgings, carried her himself, and upon delivering them she fell upon her knees in a transport of joy, calling Miss Murrells an angel, and condemning her own vile behaviour to her, which, she said, she sincerely repented of, and recounted to the Colonel the history of herself, which we related in the twelfth chapter of the second book. He asked, if she knew what was become of her ungracious nephew? she answer’d, “ He was then dying of a wound he had received from an unknown person, that he attempted to rob in the street a few days before, as he had informed her by his wife, who had just been with her, to tell her he expressed great sorrow for the misery she sustained by his means, but hoped she would forgive him, as it was impossible they should ever meet again in this world.” As some atonement for what he has defrauded me of, he has sent me these trifles to convert into money. Shewing the Colonel a plain gold ring, and another toy, which he suspected to be stolen, and paying her more than the value of them, he took them away with a design to advertise them, and restore them to the right owners. He told Mrs. Durant, if she was sincere in what she said, he must insist upon her informing him where he might hear of Mack-shane’s wife, thinking she might be persuaded to make further discoveries that would be of service to the world. She reply’d, she knew not where she was to be found, but that she was to be with her shortly, and if she had any previous

previous intelligence of her coming, she would acquaint him with it. The Colonel desired she would do so, and then left her to reflect on the different behaviour of her vicious principal, Lord Courtall, to whose family she owed her ruin, and in the prosecution of whose service, she had met with a disaster that had very near brought her to her grave, and reduced her to the lowest degree of indigence; yet this noble patron could suffer her to remain under the most afflicting pains of the body, heightened by the stings of a conscience, still more severely wounded, without granting her a sixpenny piece towards defraying the expence of her cure; or to procure her a morsel of bread where with to sustain weak nature. What a contrast did the conduct of the virtuous and injured party exhibit to her view? Such indeed as awakened in her soul a penitential sense of her own wickedness, and brought her to a full resolution to pass the remainder of her days in offering up expiatory prayers at the throne of grace; and warning others to avoid or resist the temptations she had been deluded by.—

The Colonel, having made a report to Miss Murrells of the success of his embassy, was shewn a card which had been left in his absence, and contained, “The compliments of
 “Mr. and Mrs. Manly to the Colonel, Mrs.
 “Jeffon and Miss Murrells, requesting the fa-
 “vour of their company at Mr. Manly’s house
 “to dine on the morrow.” When he had perused it, he was asked by the ladies, “Who
 “could be meant by Mrs. Manly? he reply’d,
 “No-

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“ No-body ; but it is very probable the servant that had wrote the card had been accustomed in a former place to insert his master’s and lady’s compliments, and did it mechanically.” This answer served for a solution of what had appeared very mysterious to them ; and they were as fully persuaded from his interpretation, that there was no such person as Mrs. Manly, as any libertine pretends to be of the non-existence of that virtue in others to which he himself is a stranger.—We will pass over the remainder of this day, and convey them to Mr. Manly’s, where the affair was cleared up much to their satisfaction.

C H A P. XIV.

Cannon salutes Mr. Manly and the Colonel, and is preparing to go off.

WHEN the company which we left at Mr. Manly’s had paid their congratulatory compliments to the master and mistress of the family, the Colonel informed Mr. Manly of the situation in which he found Mrs. Durant ; and that he had received a note from her to acquaint him that he might see her niece, if he would give himself the trouble to come to her lodgings about six that evening. He then mentioned the trinkets he had purchased, and produced

them to view ; the justice no sooner laid eyes upon one of them, then he declared it was the tobacco-stopper that he had lost ; here said he, Sir, pointing to the Colonel, " Look at my " name, tho' the rogue has taken pains to " scratch it, you may without a deal of learning " make out Gilbert Moody." Upon this the Colonel looked at it more attentively, and said, with his help he could decipher those words, and delivered it to the old gentleman.—Soon after dinner Mr. Manly was told that Cannon desired to speak with him. Upon which he retired into another apartment to receive him, who the moment he appeared, said, " He came " to return him thanks for all the favours he " had conferred upon him, and to bid him " adieu, being going with his lord into France, " and could not leave England until he had " paid his compliments to him and Colonel " Jeffon." Mr. Manly then order'd a servant to beg the Colonel would walk into that room ; where the valet addressed him in like manner. He seemed to be highly pleased with the thoughts of this trip, and told the gentlemen it was vastly fortunate at this juncture, adding, " I am in some " hopes of having it one time or other in my " power to return some of the favours you " have honour'd me with, and if ever I should " be a marquis, I am sure I shall never forget " my old friends." At this the Colonel burst into a laugh, " Prithee Cannon, cry'd he, what " have you drank to day?" " Nothing but " chocolate, reply'd the valet, for my lord does " not dine till late to day, I asked that ques-
tion,

tion, continued the Colonel, as I could not
 otherwise account for the absurdity of your
 speech ; but if you have not been too free
 with some liquor more potent than chocolate,
 I should be glad to know what prospect you
 have of becoming a man of quality ?” The
 valet was about to reply, when a servant told the
 Colonel his chariot attended, according to his
 order ; and he being willing to hear Cannon’s
 pretensions, and yet desirous of seeing Mrs.
 Mackshane, offer’d the valet a place in it ; say-
 ing, the business he was going upon would not
 detain him long, and he might attend him, and
 sit in the chariot till he return’d to it. During
 their little journey, he demanded an explanation
 of what he had uttered ; Cannon answered, “ I
 know your honour will be surpris’d, but more
 unlikely things have happened ; and that you
 may know I go upon pretty sure grounds, I
 must tell you my mother was an Irish woman
 of no very great family, and had a brother
 who resided in Ireland, and was a mechanick
 I must confess of the lowest order ; this uncle
 of mine, though he could neither read nor
 write, kept up a constant correspondence with
 his sister, my aunt Belcher ; the person he
 employed as his secretary last week informed
 her, that his daughter is at this very time
 promoted to be one of the first ladies in the
 court of France ; and as my cousin is so hap-
 pily advanced, I propose making myself
 known to her, and soliciting her interest ;
 which must be the greatest in that nation to
 procure me something handsome ; to which,

“ no doubt she will chuse a title to be annexed,
 “ as I can without vanity boast of being the top
 “ of her family ; and she may be proud to ac-
 “ knowledge the only person of any figure in it.
 “ This, Sir, is my scheme, in which if I should
 “ succeed, I shall be always ready to do your
 “ honour, or Mr. Manly’s, any service in my
 “ power.” The contents of this speech, and
 the gravity with which it was uttered, had such
 an effect on the person to whom it was addres-
 sed, that he could not refrain from an immode-
 rate fit of laughter ; and finding he had to deal
 with such an incorrigible coxcomb, he thought
 it in vain to expostulate with him upon the sub-
 ject ; and therefore only reminded him of the
 Bastile being a much less agreeable habitation
 than the Fleet. By this time the chariot stopt,
 and the Colonel was going to alight, when the
 valet laid hold of his arm and begged him to
 stay a moment : he made this request with such
 tokens of fear in his countenance, that the Co-
 lonel demanded the occasion of this sudden
 alarm ? “ Oh, Sir ! answer’d he, did not you
 “ observe that miserable object that passed us
 “ this minute, and went into this house ? ” “ I
 “ saw, reply’d the Colonel, a ragged creature,
 “ who, I imagine may be a chare-woman to
 “ the people here ; but, what is she to the pur-
 “ pose ?—I suppose you are surpris’d at my
 “ visiting such a place ; yet you might know,
 “ that I never think it beneath me to search into
 “ the meanest recess, to relieve the distressed or
 “ comfort the penitent.” Oh, Sir, cry’d the
 “ valet, I know your honour is all goodness !
 “ and

" and I shall remember to my dying day the
 " kind visit you made me in prison; I did not
 " question but you came upon some charitable
 " design, yet I little thought you knew any
 " thing of my wife; indeed she makes a most
 " dreadful appearance." " Your wife! said
 " the Colonel, what do you mean? I know no-
 " thing of your wife." " Your honour is
 " pleased to say so, answer'd Cannon, but I am
 " not mistaken; that is the very woman I was
 " so unlucky as to marry; I must humbly take
 " leave of your honour before you go into the
 " house, for I would avoid her sight." " Cou-
 " rage! Cannon, cry'd the Colonel, you shall
 " wait for me; for if it is as you say, I will make
 " enquiry after her; you need be under no ap-
 " prehensions of her running away with you,
 " whilst you sit in the chariot, therefore I insist
 " upon your staying 'till I return; you may
 " draw up the canvasses if you chuse it." The
 valet stood too much in awe of the Colonel to
 disobey these peremptory orders, but the mo-
 ment he enter'd the house he made use of the
 blinds. The Colonel found Mrs. Durant in
 discourse with the woman which had disturbed
 Cannon, and was not a little surpris'd at her say-
 ing to him, " This, Sir, is the wife of my un-
 " happy nephew, who is just expired; she in-
 " forms me that the things which you purchased
 " were stolen, though she knows not to whom
 " they both belong; the ring, she says, he took
 " last Sunday from an herb woman that keeps
 " a stall in Covent Garden market, on her re-
 " turn from Islington. I must beg therefore,

“ Sir, to return you the money for it, that she
 “ may have it again.” The Colonel refused
 to take the money or deliver the ring, saying, he
 would return it to the right owner, having learnt
 her name. Then he asked Mrs. Mackshane
 how long she had been married? she reply’d
 twelve years. “ Have you any evidence or
 “ certificate of your marriage? said he. I be-
 “ lieve she has no certificate, answer’d Mrs.
 “ Durant, but I and two much more responsible
 “ persons, who are still living, were witnesses
 “ of the ceremony being performed at St. Mar-
 “ tin’s church.—It is bnt too true, that she was
 “ ruined by the fatal alliance she made with my
 “ nephew.” The niece wept during this
 speech, and never lifted up her eyes; and the
 Colonel perceiving she was overcome with for-
 row, had more humanity than to encrease it by
 a rough behaviour; he therefore in as gentle
 terms as possible, told her, he hoped the afflic-
 tion she was in, arose from a consciousness of
 having offended the divine Being, rather than a
 separation from her wretched husband: “ I am
 “ informed, continued he, that you have de-
 “ luded a gentleman to ruin whom you mar-
 “ ried some months ago, and not only robbed
 “ him of all he was worth, but occasioned his
 “ imprisonment for debts of your contracting:
 “ I have sufficient evidence to prove this, and
 “ could instantly produce the person you have
 “ thus injured, and deliver you up to his mercy;
 “ but, I had rather by a persuasive method
 “ bring you to a proper sense of your guilt, and
 “ aid you with my advice towards a reformation
 “ of

“ of your life, then expose you to the rigour of
 “ the law ; therefore if you will in presence of
 “ two witnesses that I shall call up, make oath
 “ of the legality of your prior marriage, I will
 “ not only engage that you shall receive no mo-
 “ lestation from Mr. Cannon ; but, if I can
 “ learn that you are once in a way to get an
 “ honest livelihood, and have changed your
 “ manner of life, I will be a friend to you.”
 The wretched creature at this fell on her knees,
 with all the tokens of contrition, and confessed
 the fact of which she was accused ; assuring him
 she was very ready to obey his commands ; ac-
 cordingly he called up a servant, and dispatched
 him to fetch a tradesman whom he knew, that
 lived in the same street, and before him and the
 Colonel’s footman she took the oath required.
 When they were dismissed, Mrs. Durant pro-
 tested she was an entire stranger to the affair of
 Cannon, but said her nephew had been guilty of
 so many vile actions, that she did not question
 but this was committed at his instigation ;
 “ For, I verily believe, continued she, he drove
 “ her to it ; oh ! he has been the vilest and
 “ most ungrateful wretch to her !—will you
 “ give me leave, Sir, to relate to you some
 “ circumstances of her life, which may pos-
 “ sibly excite your compassion for her, though
 “ she is criminal.” “ I know none, answer’d
 “ the Colonel, whose condition is so deplor-
 “ able as those who are in such a state of
 “ bondage to sin ; there are none who more
 “ deserve commiseration ; I shall therefore
 “ very

“ very attentively listen to what you have to
 “ say.” She thanked him, and proceeded to
 the narrative which we reserve for the next
 chapter.

C H A P. XV.

Contains Mrs. Mackshane's history.

“ **T**HIS unfortunate woman, said Mrs.
 “ Durant, was the daughter of a gen-
 “ tleman who had a place in the six clerks
 “ office ; and being an only child, her parents
 “ by their care and indulgence proved there
 “ was nothing so dear to them in this world.
 “ When she was about seventeen, she became
 “ acquainted with my nephew, who was an
 “ under clerk in the same office, and knowing
 “ her father to be wealthy, made use of every
 “ artifice to ingratiate himself into her affec-
 “ tions. He was but too successful ; and in a
 “ short time persuaded her to elope from her
 “ parents ; who, suspecting the affair, had in-
 “ formed her of their dislike to him, upon ac-
 “ count of the looseness of his morals ; for as
 “ to the slenderness of his fortune, they de-
 “ clared, if he had been a man of character,
 “ and she regarded him, they would not have
 “ withheld their consent. With grief and
 “ shame I must confess I was aided in this se-
 “ duction,

" duction, for such I must call it, and afford-
 " ed them a refuge in my house 'till we could
 " bring about a reconciliation with her pa-
 " rents. A year passed on, and no notice was
 " taken off her by them, when her mother died
 " of the grief this rash step of her daughter's
 " occasioned; and her father having quite
 " discarded her, married to a young woman,
 " by whom he was likely to have a family.
 " My nephew disappointed of the fortune he
 " expected with her, used her barbarously; not
 " only refusing her money to purchase com-
 " mon necessaries, but even obliging her to
 " part with her watch, and some few jewels,
 " which the indulgence of her parents had
 " furnished her with, before he was expelled
 " from the office; during his confinement for
 " the fraud he had committed there, her father
 " sent a friend to let her know if she would
 " leave her husband, of whose villainy she had
 " now a conspicuous proof, he would receive
 " her into his house, and provide for her as
 " if she had never transgressed; but positively
 " declared if she would not consent to break
 " off all commerce with him, he would never
 " part with a groat to keep her from starving.
 " Tempting as this proposition was, and not-
 " withstanding the ill treatment she received
 " from my wretched nephew, she was not to
 " be prevailed upon to agree to it upon such
 " conditions; and return'd her duty with
 " many acknowledgments to her father for
 " this condescension; but said, she had too
 " great a regard for the person she had mar-
 " ried

" ried, to consent to a separation for ever upon
 " any terms ; and that she was determined to
 " abide by him at all events, and would not
 " on any account desert him in his affliction.
 " I used every argument I could to persuade
 " her to accept her father's offer, not so much,
 " I will generously confess, from a proper
 " sense of her advantage as to rid myself of
 " her incumbrance ; for she had been main-
 " tained at my expence from the time she
 " came into my house, and I now saw no pros-
 " pect of her ever being able to repay me ;
 " but all my intreaties were unavailing, she
 " was so infatuated as to prefer waiting upon
 " him in a prison to an independant state
 " under her father's roof. Oh ! may all heed-
 " less young women be warned by the example
 " her wretched life affords ! and not suffer
 " themselves to be seduced by flattering pre-
 " tensions of love from a man whose character
 " will not stand the test of such a scrutiny as
 " the choice of a partner for life demands ;
 " such indeed as no girl at so early an age can
 " be supposed capable of making ; and how
 " dangerous it is for a young person, biassed
 " by passion, and devoid of experience, to put
 " herself voluntarily into the power of an
 " abandoned profligate ; this instance, and
 " many the like melancholy ones can evi-
 " dence ? Oh, Sir, what numbers have been
 " like her undone by the false hopes of being
 " able to fix the wandering passions of a rake ?
 " for such she well knew my nephew to be ;
 " yet, debauched as he was, she run the dread-
 " ful

" ful risk of uniting herself to him ; conjectur-
 " ing from the supple behaviour of the lover,
 " she should be able to reclaim the husband ;
 " an experiment that I hope will be no longer
 " attempted by any woman who would secure
 " peace of mind here or happiness hereafter ;
 " since the failure of it must be destructive to
 " both, as every one who has fallen into this
 " fatal mistake can testify ; though I hope very
 " few have paid so dearly for their imprudence.
 " But to return to my niece's story ; when she
 " acquainted her husband with the answer
 " she had sent to her father's message, and
 " assured him she would remain with him in a
 " dungeon rather than desert him in his
 " distress, he cruelly pushed her from him,
 " and uttering a volley of oaths and impious
 " execrations against her and her father, bid
 " her return to the old rogue, for he never de-
 " sired to see her more ; upbraiding her with
 " her poverty, and condemning the step she
 " had taken in quitting her parents to ruin
 " him ; for so ungenerously did he express
 " himself, imputing the crime for which he
 " was imprisoned to her extravagance, which
 " he affirmed he had no other means to supply,
 " though I was, as I said, at all the expence
 " of providing for their board and lodging.
 " Whilst he was thus cruelly abusing her, the
 " son of that earl (whom I can never mention
 " without remorse and shame) came to the
 " prison and set him at liberty. Lord Cour-
 " tall fixt his eyes upon the weeping wife, and
 " observed enough beauty in her form to in-
 " spire

“ spire him with a desire to obtain her for a
 “ mistress ; the indigence and principles of her
 “ husband, encouraged him to communicate
 “ his desire to him, when he returned to my
 “ house ; the base husband agreed to the vile
 “ bargain ; but, when he informed her of it,
 “ she resolutely refused to perform the condi-
 “ tions. They sat up all night debating the
 “ matter, and at last he terrified her into a
 “ compliance by presenting a loaded pistol,
 “ declaring he was desperate ; and if she would
 “ not agree to extricate him out of his troubles
 “ by this method, which would also procure
 “ her a maintenance, he would instantly dis-
 “ patch both her and himself, for he was de-
 “ termined not to live to want. This menace
 “ had the effect he intended, and from that
 “ time ’till within these few years, they were
 “ both supported by my lord’s bounty, at the
 “ expence of her virtue and her ease ; which
 “ she has often solemnly protested she never
 “ enjoyed since. My nephew behaved tole-
 “ rably to her during the time he was in his
 “ lordship’s pay ; for though he had long with-
 “ drawn his personal visits from my niece, he
 “ employed her husband in seducing other
 “ women, and did not desert him till the
 “ failure of the scheme concerted against Miss
 “ Murrells ; from which time he never admit-
 “ ted him into his presence, or granted him
 “ any support. The loss of his lordship’s fa-
 “ vour and pay made him renew his threat-
 “ nings to his wife, whom he prostituted for
 “ gain, and frequently obliged her to go with
 “ him

" him to houses of publick resort, where he
 " found he could make money of her." To
 this Mrs. Mackshane added, " What you have
 " told this gentleman is very true, I have been
 " a most abandoned wretch, I may say against
 " my inclinations, since I protest nothing but
 " the fear of death, which my husband was per-
 " petually threatening me with, could have pre-
 " vailed with me to behave as I have done. It
 " was that alone which occasioned the wrong I
 " did Mr. Cannon; my husband was informed
 " by the people where he lodged that he was a
 " foolish young officer who had got some money,
 " and was endeavouring to add to it by a match
 " with any lady of fortune; upon this he placed
 " me in the lodgings where Mr. Cannon found
 " me, and passed for my brother; we were no
 " sooner married than I obeyed Mr. Mack-
 " shane's orders as to the robbery; who having
 " discovered that he had parted with his com-
 " mission, thought it not worth my while to
 " continue longer with him, after depriving him
 " of all he was worth, but left him to defray the
 " expences of my lodging and board. I own
 " I was to blame to be intimidated with the
 " dread of what is much more desirable than
 " the wretched life I lead; and which now he
 " is no more, I am determined to quit though
 " I starve; had my father been still living I
 " should have flown to him for succour, and
 " verily believe, as my husband is dead, he
 " would have afforded me a trifle towards my
 " support; but since he is gone, I have no
 " friend to apply to, nor any means to procure
 " my bread." I am truly concerned at this re-
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lation, answer'd the Colonel, and would do any thing to contribute towards a reformation of your life ; thus far I will engage, " If you can
 " fix upon any honest employment to procure
 " a maintenance, and will transform your way
 " of thinking and acting to one more suited to
 " the design for which you were sent into the
 " world, my protection and assistance shall not
 " be wanting to encourage you to persevere in
 " the only path that can lead you from the final
 " destruction both of your soul and body. As
 " an earnest of what I intend to do for you,
 " here are two guineas ; and I desire you would
 " tell me what sort of employment best suits
 " your capacity?" This question could not
 be immediately reply'd to by the culprit, who
 was so overcome by the humane behaviour of
 the Colonel, and so deeply affected with the
 consciousness of her own demerit, that it was
 some time before she could give vent to her
 acknowledgments. At last she expressed the
 grateful sense she had of his kind admonitions,
 and present, and said, she could earn her living
 by working at her needle, provided she could be
 employed ; but though she had offered herself
 to several shops, the character she bore caused
 them all to reject her, and she knew not where
 to make application for work. Her benefactor
 reply'd, " Some time of probation will be re-
 " quisite to erase the bad impression your con-
 " duct has justly made upon all who are of
 " good principles : I may be condemned for
 " too hastily crediting the protestations you
 " have made of contrition and amendment, but
 " I hope

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" I hope for your own sake they are sincere ;
 " for if not, I would have you consider what an
 " aggravation to your other offences such a de-
 " ception must be deemed by that just Judge
 " who inspects into the inmost recesses of the
 " heart, and whose power is adequate to his
 " knowledge." At this she re-iterated her pro-
 mises of making a thorough reformation in her
 life, and protested her repentance was such as
 heaven and he required. He then told her he
 would make a representation of her case to some
 people of worth and humanity, who would em-
 ploy her, and advised that Mrs. Durant and she
 should take a private lodging, and live as retired
 as possible ; saying, the reputation they had in
 the world mu't prevent him from making them
 any more visits ; but he should continue to en-
 quire after them, and to supply them with what
 might help to keep them from want ; having
 again exhorted them to follow his advice, he
 left them and return'd to his chariot.

C H A P. XVI.

*Proves a ring to be no unnecessary appendage to
a wife.*

CANNON, very uneasy at the Colonel's
 making so long a visit, was extremely
 pleased to hear him order the coachman to re-

turn to Mr. Manly's. Upon which he plucked up the courage to ask him if he had heard any thing about his wife? The Colonel reply'd, " I have had a long conversation with her, and " I hope I have made up matters between you; " she gave me a piece of paper to deliver to " you, and I have promised that you should " forgive all that is pass'd." The valet, conjecturing by this speech that the gentleman expected he should be reconciled to her, and receive her as his wife, seemed to be under the greatest confusion; however, though he was a good deal afraid of offending the Colonel, this apprehension so affected him that he could not avoid saying, he was determined never to live with such a jade, and that he was surpris'd his honour could propose it. The Colonel not being willing to let him remain under this mistake, produced the paper which contained the confession of her marriage with Mackshane, and Cannon's release from the obligation he thought himself under to her. The perusal of which threw him into such a transport of joy that he knew not how to express it otherwise than by bestowing the epithets of noble, generous, and good, very profusely upon the Colonel; who being to pass through the street in which his lord resided, took his leave of him, and set him down at his lordship's house.—Whilst the Colonel was gone upon this expedition, Mr Manly had taken Mrs Jeffson and Miss Murrells aside, and imparted to them what had passed in the interview he had had with Mr. Truelove; begging leave to introduce him at the Colonel's

on

on the morrow, to which the ladies consented ; and Miss Murrells, in return, acquainted him with Mr. Hinsum's generosity to her, but desired he would make no mention of that affair to Mr. Truelove ; he promised she should be obeyed, and heartily congratulated her on her accession of fortune. Upon their return to the company they found the Colonel, who diverted them with a relation of Cannon's extraordinary expectations, and the history of Mrs. Mack-shane, earnestly recommended her to the ladies as an object of charity ; and they unanimously agreed to employ her as a sempstrefs. Upon their return, Mrs. Jesson entered into a conversation with Miss Murrells concerning Mr. Truelove, and said, she imagined she should soon be deprived of the pleasure of her company ; and that however desirous she was of detaining so agreeable friend in her family, there appeared so fair a prospect of happiness in her accepting of his offer, that she should with inexpressible satisfaction resign her to him ; hoping their friendship would still subsist, and that their separation might be as little felt as possible, if it was a match, desired she would persuade Mr. Truelove to reside in their neighbourhood. Miss Murrells, having returned her thanks, declared she was not certain the match would ever be affected ; but if it was, she thought the same friendly intercourse might be preserved between them, and that she would never marry unless she could secure that in the manner she desired.—In the morning the Colonel told the ladies he had been in Covent Gar-

den market to find out the herb woman from whom Mackshane had stolen the ring, " Having been directed to her (continued he), I went up to her stall, which I found very slenderly furnished, and demanded the reason of its making so poor an appearance?" Upon which she burst into tears and cry'd, " Ah, Sir! I have been very unfortunate, and have been robbed of all I am worth, and now am forced to run a tick for the few things you see." " Robbed, said I, by whom? and what did you lose?" " I don't know his name, reply'd she, but I have seen the gentleman many a time, and often, when he has been bedaubed with lace; and as I was coming from Islington on Sunday before sun set he overtakes me, and fell a talking to me about my gains; saying, He did not doubt but I made a pretty penny of my herks; heaven help you! said I, what can I make? I can live to be sure, though it is but poorly, and I should not have been able to do that, as I am a poor widow and have four children to maintain, if I had not had a good wedding ring. Whereupon he asked me what I sold my ring for? upon which I shewed it him; sold it, said I! no, I would not change it for no money, though I never wear it but on Sundays; for every Monday morning I pawn it to buy herbs, and of a Saturday night I carry the money, and get it back again; and so I have maintained myself and my children. As soon as I had told him so, he pulled out a knife and swore he would kill me dead if I

" did

" did not give it him. I cryed and prayed him
 " not to take it away, for I and my children
 " must be starved if he did ; but he swore he
 " would have it, and so he had ; and ever since
 " I have not put a morsel of any thing but dry
 " bread into my mouth, and much ado I have had
 " to feed my babes. However, the merchant
 " I traffick with for my greens has let me have
 " as many as comes to a crown, which I am to
 " pay him when I am able." " The innocent
 " simplicity with which the poor woman uttered
 " this, prejudiced me in her favour ; and the
 " cruelty of the wretch who had wronged her
 " appeared to me in so strong a light, that I
 " could not help reflecting on the happiness of
 " Miss Murrell's escape from the power of so
 " inhumane a villain ; I asked her if the ring
 " she had lost had any motto ? " No, and
 " and please your honour, returned she, but
 " there is a posy withinside it ; once mine ever
 " thine." " I could not help smiling at a motto
 " oddly adapted to a pawn ; however perceiv-
 " ing it agreed with that on the ring in my poc-
 " ket, and her story with Mrs. Mackshane's
 " account, I delivered it to her and informed her
 " how I came by it ; she discovered such tokens
 " of joy at the sight of it as I cannot describe,
 " and said, She would be glad to pay me any
 " expence I had been at in the recovery of it ;
 " but indeed she had but eight-pence by her,
 " and she could not offer me less than a shilling ;
 " when I reply'd, that so far from demanding
 " any thing of her, I would make her a present
 " of the value of it in coin ; I thought she
 " would

“ would have fallen at my feet and worshipped “ me.” Miss Murrells was so affected with this account, and the providential deliverance which she herself had from the machinations of Mackshane, that she sent for the poor woman, and upon conversing with her, found she had been an under servant in her father’s family when they lived in Suffolk, and was carried by them to town, where she had continued from that time. Upon which she was very liberal to her, and engaged to allow her a weekly stipend towards the maintenance of her children. A supply so extraordinary and unexpected changed the poor widow’s affliction to joy and gladness; an effect that kind providence frequently draws from a sorrowful cause; as this story, with many others related in these volumes, and daily experience, can evince. Which consolatory reflection I would recommend to the contemplation of every reader who has met with misfortunes and disappointments. Since every distressed person is under the protection of that merciful Being whose pleasure it is to bring good out of evil.

CHAP.

C H A P. XVII.

Gives an account of an interview between two ladies.

IN the afternoon Mr. Manly introduced Mr. Truelove at Colonel Jesson's ; when after an hours conversation upon general topicks, he retired into another room with the Colonel and his lady, leaving Miss Murrells and her lover to themselves. No sooner were they alone than the gentleman expressed the extreme pleasure this interview gave him, and made a speech upon her merit, and the sincerity and constancy of his passion ; which, as I did not hear, I cannot verbatim repeat ; and only guess at his words by the effect they had upon the lady, who was too well satisfied with their purport to interrupt him so the space of half an hour ; when she made such a reply as so disinterested and generous a procedure deserved, ingenuously confessing her sensibility of his worth and the folly and ingratitude of her former behaviour to him. As he was too genteel to give the least hint of her misfortunes, or the indigence he imagined her parents extravagance had thrown her into ; she mentioned it herself, and gave him a circumstantial account of the dissipation of her father's substance ; adding, had she been possessed of all he had lavished, she should have no objection to accepting his generous offer ; but the condition she was fallen into had render'd her unworthy of him. He answer'd, " So far, dear
" madam

“ madam from lamenting the loss you have sus-
 “ tained, I look upon it as an happy event for
 “ us both, since the only effect it has had is to
 “ render you still more amiable by the exer-
 “ tion of many latent virtues, which I always
 “ imagined inhabited your breast; and only
 “ waited such a call to appear as conspicuous
 “ to all the world as your personal accomplish-
 “ ments; and I must rejoice at it, since it gives
 “ me an opportunity of repairing it by the im-
 “ mense wealth my uncle was pleased to be-
 “ queath me; which, without your consent to
 “ participate, is of little consequence to me.”
 He was so very importunate, that she who had
 always an esteem for him, found it so augment-
 ed by these convincing proofs of his sincerity,
 that she would no longer conceal her sentiments;
 but declared, with an ingenuous modesty, “ She
 “ thought herself highly honour’d by his good
 “ opinion, which her future conduct should en-
 “ deavour to deserve; and since from the bounty
 “ of her cousin Hinsum, (which she now in-
 “ formed him of) she was able to shew the
 “ world her inclinations were unbiaffed by his
 “ fortune; if that good old gentleman (whose
 “ consent she thought herself bound by grati-
 “ tude to demand) approved of her choice, she
 “ would not withhold her hand from him who
 “ had long had the possession of her heart.”
 The rapture with which this obliging declaration
 was received by the lover, and the expressions
 in which he vented it, I shall leave to the ima-
 gination of my readers, who may have been in
 the like situation; since a detail of it will cer-
 tainly

tainly be excused by many, who perhaps may be as little qualified to understand as I am to describe a scene of that kind; let it suffice to say, the gentleman and lady were come to a reciprocal agreement when they were called to supper. Upon their entrance into the room where it was served up, they perceived Mr. Hinsum who had received an invitation from the Colonel to meet this company. Mr. Manly read Mr. Truelove's success in his countenance, and congratulated him upon it, then presented him to Mr. Hinsum; who, much pleased with his character, upon demanding his consent, according to Miss Murrells's desire, reply'd, "Sir, my dear cousin does me
 " too much honour; I can pretend to no au-
 " thority over her, but as her friend, I would
 " advise her not to delay the union you solicit
 " many days." Mr. Truelove and the rest of the company seconded the old gentleman, and pressed for an early day, when the Saturday following was fixt upon; Mr. Truelove being in lodgings the wedding was to be celebrated at the Colonel's; and he engaged to take a house in the same street for his town residence, (having put off all his affairs in the city) and to build in the neighbourhood of the Colonel's country seat for his summer one. These affairs being settled, the company separated for that night, and the following day being Sunday little conversation about worldly matters passed.

C H A P. XVIII.

The author bids adieu to Mr. Manly and his fellow-travellers.

ON the Monday Mr. Truelove was at the Colonel's by breakfast, and detained Miss Murrells from attending Mrs. Jeffon in a visit she made that morning to Lady Farewell, who was arrived in town. At her return, Miss Murrells was very inquisitive about Miss Francis's affairs, which Mrs. Jeffon told her Sir Charles gave her the following account of. "The day after she came to Mrs. Moreton's (said he), I received a letter from Burly's nephew, importing that his uncle had received such an hurt by an accident that happen'd on his way from Windfor, that his life was despaired of; and he beg'd me to go to his house, having an affair of importance to communicate to me. Accordingly I went and found him in an expiring condition, occasion'd by breaking a blood vessel in a fall out of his chaise. The moment I appear'd he desired to be left alone with me; when he said he looked upon the accident that had befallen him as a just judgment for the injury he had intended Miss Francis; and as he found his end approaching, could not die in peace till he had sent for me, and imparted the true state of her affairs. He then presented to me a copy of her father's last will, which upon perusal I found to be very different from that she had mentioned,

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" ed, since in this he bequeathed his whole for-
 " tune to her, to be paid her upon the day of
 " marriage, or at the age of twenty-one;
 " and no such conditions were annexed,
 " as she had reported. Having read it,
 " I told him I perceived this was not the
 " will she had seen; he owned it was not, but
 " that the copy he had imposed upon her was
 " forged with no other view than to intimidate
 " and bring her into his measures; protesting,
 " he had no design to defraud her of her mo-
 " ney, though he had of her virtue. I asked
 " him why he did not rather seek to secure
 " both by marrying her? He answer'd, that
 " he would gladly have done, but it was not in
 " his power, as he had a wife living, who had
 " been his servant, and engaged never to di-
 " vulge their marriage during his life, except
 " he attempted to marry another. He con-
 " cluded with saying, he rejoiced at Miss Fran-
 " cis's escape from him, and deliver'd to me all
 " the writings relative to her father's effects.
 " Upon receipt of which I left him, and I hear
 " he expired within a few hours after." " But
 " my dear Bell (continued Mrs. Jeffon) this is
 " not all the news I have picked up to day,
 " your persecutor, Lord Courtall, has within
 " this week performed such an exploit, that not
 " all his father's interest will be able to skreen
 " him from punishment, if he is taken; but it
 " is thought by his absconding ever since the
 " young woman whom he has abused made
 " her deposition against him, that he has crof-
 " sed the water." This relation afforded Miss

Murrells fresh occasion to pour forth thanks to heaven for her preservation in the danger she had been exposed to. The next day Miss Murrells went to see her friend Mrs. Hill, and took with her Miss Francis. She had the pleasure to find her extremely happy in the situation of her children, and in expectation of her son's return in autumn, from whom she had received a commission to take a house against his arrival, and a request to quit her business and reside with him, who had no intention of ever returning to India; she said her son and daughter Hardy were fix'd much to their liking at Deptford. In return for this agreeable intelligence, Miss Murrells acquainted her with the fortunate change in her circumstances, and invited her, when she was mistress of a country house, to pass the summer seasons with her; declaring she should ever respect her as a parent. Whilst they were conversing, Mr. Ellet, who had formerly made his addresses to Miss Murrells, enter'd the room, and being inform'd by Mrs. Hill of her good fortune, congratulated her upon it. He staid with the ladies two hours, and was so pleased with the conversation and person of Miss Francis, that under pretence of business he took Mrs. Hill aside, and made enquiry after her, but she, having no acquaintance with her, could not satisfy his questions. However, before the ladies departed, she found an opportunity to obtain the information he required from Miss Murrells, who imparted Miss Francis's history to her. On the Thursday the Colonel's family, Mr. Truelove, and Mr. Hinsum, were invited

to spend the evening at Mr. Manly's. Accordingly they went, and upon their entrance into the house, were presented by the master of it to Mr. and Mrs. Lee, who had that morning received the nuptial benediction from Mr. Doughty; the justice was more than commonly merry upon the occasion; and the rest of the company indulged a sprightly chearfulness, temper'd by good breeding; to encrease the bridegroom's joy, he received a letter that evening, which informed him that his beloved brother was out of all danger, and in a fair way to recover speedily; a piece of news extremely agreeable to all present, except the justice, whose features began to resume their usual gloom from the moment he heard it. Mr. Truelove had some conversation apart with Mr. Doughty, who he desired would be ready on the Saturday to perform the like good office to him. At their departure, the Colonel beg'd Mr. Manly's family would return this visit on the Monday, Miss Murrells desiring her wedding might be private. Upon the day appointed Mr. Truelove had the happiness to receive his amiable bride from the hand of her kind cousin Hinsum; and the following week the new marry'd couple receiv'd the congratulations of their friends at Colonel Jeffon's; when the justice return'd to the Sullens, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Manly, his son and daughter. Mr. Truelove and his lady remained some months at the Colonel's, and then removed to a house they have taken in that neighbourhood, where good old Mr. Hinsum has promised to pass with them
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the remainder of his days. Amongst the congratulations Mrs. Truelove received, none were more sincere than those of Sir Charles and Lady Farewell, who propose staying in town till the spring; and it is conjectured a match will speedily be effected between Mr. Ellet and Miss Francis, as they have commenced an acquaintance much approved of by her worthy guardian.

Thus having conducted Mr. Manly and his fellow travellers to that period of their lives which each was desirous of attaining, I will bid them adieu, with a sincere wish that every person who is endued with the like share of virtue, humanity and constancy, may experience the like good fortune.



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